

selfbuilder & homemaker

December/January 2011

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Air-Conditioning & Ventilation (MVHR)
Interiors & Interior Design
MMC & Construction Systems
Rainwater Products
Ecobuild Show Preview

BATHROOMS & KITCHENS SHOWCASE

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Rational's Atmos range in Urbano repro and high gloss salvia. See page 11 for more information.

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

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Futuristic low energy house

Stage Two – Construction Commences

The construction of the Crescent Shaped house within the depths of Sussex has picked up momentum. Jo Saady BA (Hons) Dip.Arch MSc (EEB) RIBA Founding and Creative Director of Ecotecture Ltd, talks about the progress of this exciting build. The weather however has played it's part in holding up the build schedule due to one of the coldest winters the UK has experienced since records began.

Overcoming difficulties regarding the pre-formed insulated formwork has not held up the construction progress. The original Nudura quote for the pre-formed curved insulated formwork to be delivered, after costings, had been taken into consideration but would have been extremely expensive. Instead the contractor adapted standard blocks by cutting and infilling to achieve the wonderful curve that forms the building's crescent shape. During this process plywood gussets are used to strengthen joints prior to pumping the concrete in.

An essential piece of equipment on this project is a GPS satellite system, used for setting out and, as the walls have gone up, the essential need for accuracy had become apparent. Due to the curved shape of the build any discrepancies at one end can result in a 270 mm difference in the wall's position at the other end. When pre ordering high quality windows accuracy is extremely important. The GPS was used to position the steel posts which are situated at the point of the curved ends. These will be hidden within the window frames.

The windows for the build have now been ordered; the decision was made to opt for Optiwin windows which are Passivhaus certified. These triple glazed energy efficient windows achieve ultra low U values.

The Opdek system used for the floors has been installed. The system is basically concertinaed steel with insulation sandwiched between, with an additional thick layer on top. In this instance the flooring system had to be fitted by cutting into the curve of the walls; the progress was extremely interesting as the men on site were not used to this form of construction. However, they took this learning curve in their stride.

Electrics

On this type of construction it is essential that all electric positions are known at the earliest stages and all ductwork and appropriate sleeves are provided for the wiring. Post-pour drilling for changes in the electric layout is not acceptable and endangers the air tightness, as in this instance we are aiming for an air tightness of less than one air change per m²/m³/hr at 50 pascals.

On this project the lighting design was undertaken by John Cullen, London, who were involved at the planning process. When the house is finished this state of the art lighting system will allow for lights to have various mood settings: up lighting to the entrance area and wall washing.

Heating

A mechanical ventilation and heat recovery system will be installed which has been designed by The Green Shop; the Paul thermos 300 with an advanced control system enabling management, a range of peripherals e.g. frost protection & supply heat, and the setting of all parameters such as summer bypass temperatures. This high performance MVHR system is ideal for Passivhaus and low energy buildings.

Plans are being discussed for a soil heat exchanger using the temperature of the ground to cool air on the intake in summer or preheat air in the winter.

The contractor had planned to pour the ground floor walls and upper slab in one go, but was unable to

The curve of the crescent house taking shape.



Pouring the concrete for the foundations.



Plywood gussets can be clearly seen strengthening the joints.

go ahead as the under floor heating on the upper floors hadn't been installed; we lost the slot due to the snow! As a result the walls have had to be poured in two hits with extra reinforcement in the walls and concrete edges roughed up to ensure stability in the walls. Also due care had to be taken by the men working at height due to the extremely icy conditions.

Hopefully the weather will improve enabling us to catch up with our schedule.

Selfbuilder & Homemaker will continue to follow this futuristic build over the forthcoming months.

Architects – Ecotecture Ltd
Builders – Kithurst Builders
Windows – Optiwin Windows
Lighting – John Cullen Lighting
MVHRS – The Green Shop



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Hanse Haus

Hanse Haus have recently launched their Passivhaus into the market. The PassivHaus is first and foremost a house which achieves outstanding thermal insulation and an extremely low space heating requirement of only 15 kWh per square metre of floor area per annum. With Hanse Haus, Passivhaus standards are not an elite ideal, but an affordable code of build where technology can be applied to an average UK family home where utility running costs are of primary importance. The Hanse Haus Passivhaus really is part of the new generation of housebuilding; the Hanse Haus Passivhaus meets Code 6 requirements.

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Rundum Meir

The new series of Channel 4's inspirational Grand Designs features a Rundum Meir garage door. Project architect and home-owner Helen Seymour-Smith specified the 7m by 2.2m timber door for her Cotswold Stealth House – the first accredited passive house in England. Helen said: "We were looking for a high quality, design-led solution that would complement the modern architectural values and passive credentials of the house – and remain in keeping with the historic barn structure and surrounding green belt land. Rundum Meir was able to meet our criteria."

Image credit: Image courtesy of Dow Building Solutions and Sto Ltd
Photographer: Samuel Ashfield

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FloodWall

FloodWall's unique removable flood defence doors and airbrick covers have been awarded the prestigious new BSI PAS1188 kitemark for removable flood protection devices, following extensive independent testing. PAS 1188 sets a new industry standard in flood protection where products are subjected to a series of rigorous tests in a range of simulated conditions, including a replica living room fitted with FloodWall doors and airbrick covers installed in a massive water tank, about half the size of a football pitch holding 196,000 gallons of water. "The BSI Kitemark awarded to Floodwall gives householders and businesses confidence in our products and their effectiveness."

Enq. 104



Westwood Developments

We are a UK based home builder specialising in constructing homes for clients with tailor made requirements. Uniquely, Westwood Developments offer a service incorporating all elements of the planning, construction, litigation and finance process. We work with major UK and international brands to bring you a service that is comprehensive, underwritten with guarantees, and delivered on time and on budget. Established in 1990 our quality of workmanship and service is second to none. We work to agreed deadlines so you can invest in your dream home with confidence. Whether you are an investor looking for a higher yield return, or a customer who needs a house built, Westwood Developments can manage your design and build. All our estimates and quotations are guaranteed for six months.

Enq. 107

Ecology Building Society

Ecology Building Society has been providing a unique brand of green mortgages for almost 30 years, lending on properties that benefit the environment. Their main lending areas are:

- Run-down or derelict dwellings that require substantial renovation work
- Disused, neglected property that can be converted in to usable buildings
- New ecologically built homes, using sustainable, natural materials and incorporating high levels of energy efficiency and renewable energy systems.
- The installation of energy saving measures and renewable energy systems to existing property

Enq. 106



Kwik stairs

Kwik stairs have designed a flat pack staircase that uses a carefully designed template to make it possible for the user to build any staircase to fit any situation directly on the site. You do not need to place an order for your stairs you can purchase them directly here on the Internet or via your local good builders merchants, they are cost effective so no need to waste time in contacting companies for quotations you buy a straight flight and add any winders as needed. You measure your own floor to floor measurement and work of a carefully produced system that will tell you what requirements are needed and therefore what template you need to follow.

Enq. 108





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Passive stack ventilation extracts the humidity from the wet bathrooms.

Taking the stress

Dennis Bates, Product Manager for Passivent, looks at the implications of the new Approved Document F and how to address them.

New criteria for ventilation in dwellings, which came into force in October under the new Approved Document F, are already causing ripples as people endeavour to balance the drive to create better air tightness with the need to provide adequate ventilation and cope with the commissioning and maintenance requirements.

In developing the Regulations, the Government has taken into account that the more airtight a building is, the more vital it is to provide adequate ventilation; to avoid health problems affecting the building fabric and your health. We would otherwise in effect be expecting you to live in a sealed box with no fresh air! Day to day living generates up to 8 litres of water vapour within the home every day through cooking, laundry, bathing etc; moisture that must be removed to avoid health issues for people and the building caused by condensation.

The main methods of providing background ventilation are:

- Passive stack (PSV or iPSV): basically, a chimney. Damp stale air naturally rises up through extracts in the ceiling (which operate automatically) and is extracted through the roof. Wall or window inlets provide replacement fresh air. The system is completely automatic, working 24/7. As there are no mechanical parts, the system uses no electricity, and requires no operator input or maintenance (a fit and forget solution).
- Mechanical ventilation (MEV or iMEV): a central fan mechanically extracts the moist air from 'wet' rooms (kitchens, bathrooms, en-suites etc), with fresh air being replaced through wall or window vents. The fan is usually located in a cupboard or loft space, minimizing noise.
- Mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR): this method utilizes the principle of mechanical ventilation, but passes the air being extracted through a heat exchanger to remove

as much warmth as possible before it is expelled, and transfers that warmth to the fresh air coming in. In warmer months of the year, conventional Heat Recovery systems continue to operate (in 'summer' mode) even if there is no need. The system relies on accurate installation and regular maintenance to ensure it works properly.

- A unique development combining passive stack ventilation with heat recovery is now available. This unit works in passive stack mode, without consuming any electricity. In warmer months it uses 55% less energy than standard MVHR overall across the year. This reduces operating costs and also reduces maintenance costs and requirements for the occupant; up to 39% over the lifetime of the building.

Ventilation system manufacturers -ourselves included- make diverse claims over the performance of their strategies; of most value is research into real scenarios; do the systems actually deliver what they claim. A study by De Montfort University's Institute of Energy & Sustainable Development showed that in a completely airtight ($0.3 \text{ m}^3/\text{hr}/\text{m}^2 @ 50\text{Pa}$) house, the average ventilation rate for a Passive Stack ventilation system was 11.39 l/s , compared to the minimum high rate (i.e. boost) for a mechanical ventilation system of 8 l/s .

The Approved Document also requires now that all systems are properly commissioned and signed off, to the extent that the airflow rate has to be tested and recorded, which is inevitably going to add to the total cost of the installation. There is also a requirement for occupants to adequately maintain their systems to ensure optimum ventilation levels. It is worth noting the variation in cost of ventilation strategies; in comparative lifetime costings of ventilation in an individual dwelling over 60 years, covering initial purchase, installation and on-going maintenance, PSV costs under £1000. By contrast, MVHR can cost £12,000 at today's prices.



Using MEV ventilation maintains a condensation free home at architects Graham Rennie's house, Noble Yard.

Making a decision over your choice of ventilation depends to an extent on your commitment to energy consumption, ease of use, such as manual input to turn it on or off, operating noise levels and on-going maintenance, such as filter cleaning and replacement.

Case Studies

Ben and Wendy Tuxworth Twist took the passive stack approach when they built their own home on a steep slope in Cheltenham, and have humidity sensitive extracts in the two wet bathrooms that extract the air through ducting to a roof terminal. Wendy observes, "Both Ben and I were worried about mechanical extraction with the noise it makes, so really wanted to see whether there was some way of ventilating the house passively. Passive stack ventilation seemed to be the only viable option. It is cheaper than mechanical ventilation and seemed simple to install as it requires no electrical wiring or connections."

Architect Graham Rennie and his wife Rosemary built their house in a conservation area and installed MEV. Explains Graham Rennie; "In previous architectural practices I undertook a lot of work for social housing, and used MEV ventilation as a way of maintaining a condensation-free home without occupant involvement.

"The high levels of insulation in Nobles Yard, and the fact that it was built as a well sealed building, increased potential for damp and condensation so we needed a system that we would be sure would work and ensure our home stayed fresh and comfortably dry."

Enq. 110



Ben and Wendy Tuxworth Twist, low impact eco home fitted with PSV.

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Enq. 112

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Methven

Enq. 113

Methven gears up for Ecobuild and ISH



Methven is gearing up for a busy start to the New Year with preparations for EcoBuild and ISH. Stands at both shows will feature working displays and the company will unveil its collection of luxury, designer showers and tapware for the UK and European markets. At EcoBuild – ExCel, London from 1 through 3 March, stand S251 – Methven will showcase an array of innovative water and energy

saving products with Satinjet® twin jet technology. Visitors to the stand will see the award winning Satinjet® Kiri and Tahi collections and the new Satinjet® Kaha collection, plus more. At ISH – Frankfurt, Germany from 15 through 19 March, stand 4.2 J36 – Methven will reveal more of its designer bathroom tapware collections alongside the Satinjet® showers.

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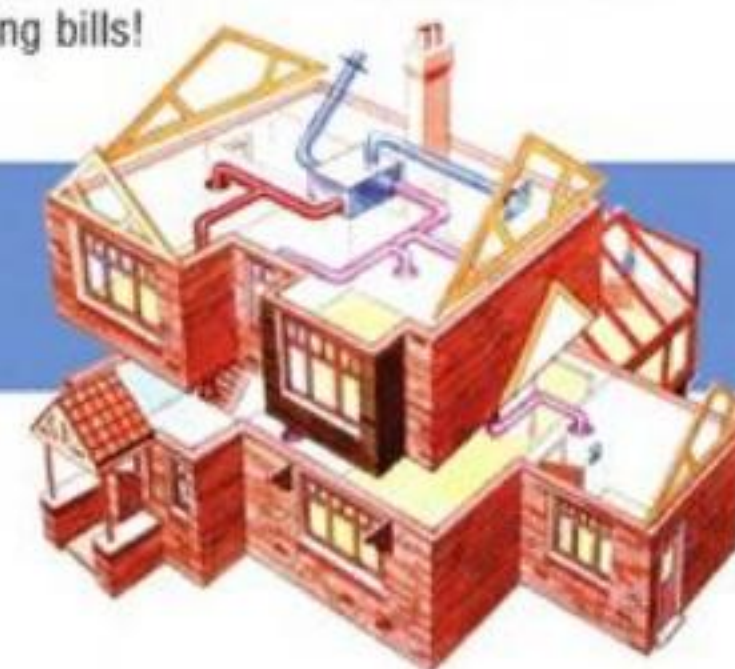
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bathrooms & kitchens showcase

Kit Stone

Kit Stone is passionate about producing beautifully crafted handmade kitchens at tremendous value for money. The Dorchester and Woodbridge hand painted and Huntley solid oak ranges have an average cabinet order value of under £10K, representing outstanding quality and value for a bespoke style fitted kitchen. Kit Stone offer a free design service and understand that a kitchen must be a multifunctional room. Each one is individually designed to work around your lifestyle and attention to design and detail ensures that the kitchen functions in every way.

www.kitstone.co.uk

Enq. 115



A 4000 year old ammonite being used as a Bathroom Switch plate



Sensorbility

The Bathroom Switch uses low voltage Sensor Pads, which can be placed behind most materials such as Ceramic Tiles, Wood, Plastic, Glass, and even Metals; users can create switches or dimmers in virtually any shape and situation. Tiles covering Sensor Pads are adhered with silicone allowing access. In Bathrooms, these Sensor Pads can even be placed behind tiles reachable from the bath or shower and thus allow safe switching and dimming. With mood lighting becoming a desirable option within bathrooms the Bathroom Switch provides an elegant alternative to pull-cord operation.

www.sensor.co.uk

Enq. 117

Rational

The popular Atmos range from Rational can be seen here in a nature inspired textured Urbano veneer. The wood effect units are complemented by Sand coloured ones in a smooth satin effect soft-lacquer finish. This handle-less kitchen has two islands with a 'floating' Sand coloured breakfast bar area for a unique use of space. The worktops seen here are chunky aqua blasted, 60mm thick grey granite. This contemporary kitchen has aluminium handle recesses for a clean, flat look. The Atmos range is available in a variety of finishes including: high gloss, wood effect, book-matched oak and walnut, glass and large choice of satin effect soft-lacquers.

www.rational.de

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Pineland

It isn't easy deciding on a new kitchen. It's such an important decision, the "heart" of the home, and you want it to be right. 70% of Pineland customers are from personal recommendations. The problem is there are so many options and choices. Ultra-modern might look good now, but will it date? Fancy mechanisms seem attractive, but will they fall apart in a few months or so? Pineland uses only solid wood. All drawers are made using dovetail joints. All carcasses are made with mortise and tenon joints. Re-Painting every 3-5 years makes the kitchen as good as new. We expect the kitchen to last 20+ years.

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Enq. 118





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Enq. 119

British Ceramic Tile

Enq. 120



Nature inspired Wintergarden tile range grows with introduction of new colour

Following the success of the recently launched Wintergarden range of ceramic tiles from British Ceramic Tile, a new beige colourway has been added. The Wintergarden range is the latest addition to the popular Laura Ashley collection of tiles. The large format 248x398mm wall tiles have a crackle glaze effect, a gloss finish and are available in a choice of light & dark beige. A coordinating feature tile is also available in light beige with a delicate floral design, which complements the plain tiles and offers an attractive feature wall or panel. The 248x80mm strip has shimmering glass & platinum highlights and is designed to work with both the light and dark plain tiles for a more classical look.

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bathrooms & kitchens showcase

Carron Bathrooms

Carron Bathrooms are delighted to announce some stunning new products including some new designs from the in house design studio of Carron Bathrooms, and some size variations to existing ranges to meet consumer requirements. The first new product is the Echelon, a smooth flowing oval design which features a custom designed filler/overflow. This is the first time a unique filler/overflow of this kind has been featured on a bath in the Carron range. The Echelon is best featured as a built in bath but can be made available with an integrated tap ledge and one-piece L-shaped panel if required.

www.carronbathrooms.com

Enq. 122



Craven Dunnill

Craven Dunnill has increased its selection of stocked mosaic ranges to over 300 following exceptional sales in the second half of 2010. The Craven Dunnill showroom at Bridgnorth encourages visitors to be adventurous, with small kitchen and bathroom settings featuring bold expanses of mosaic designs combined with co-ordinating field tiles. Ranges from recently launched tile and stone collections are teamed up with the latest mosaics to create stunning and inspirational ideas, for design conscious visitors. Craven Dunnill has significantly invested in boosting its range of mosaics, and now stocks over 300 different ranges.

www.cravendunnill.co.uk

Enq. 123



Stelrad Radiators

Stelrad Radiators has a range of quality radiator options that are exactly right for a huge range of domestic heating opportunities. For those looking for a radiator design with a bit more style and imagination, Stelrad's Planar design quite simply comes up trumps every time. Planar has a flat, smooth surface with elegant, integrated top grilles and side panels. It's a slim profile, silky smooth surfaced radiator that simply oozes quality. It's available in a range of four heights and 62 models in the most popular sizes, so it couldn't be much easier to specify or install.

www.stelrad.com

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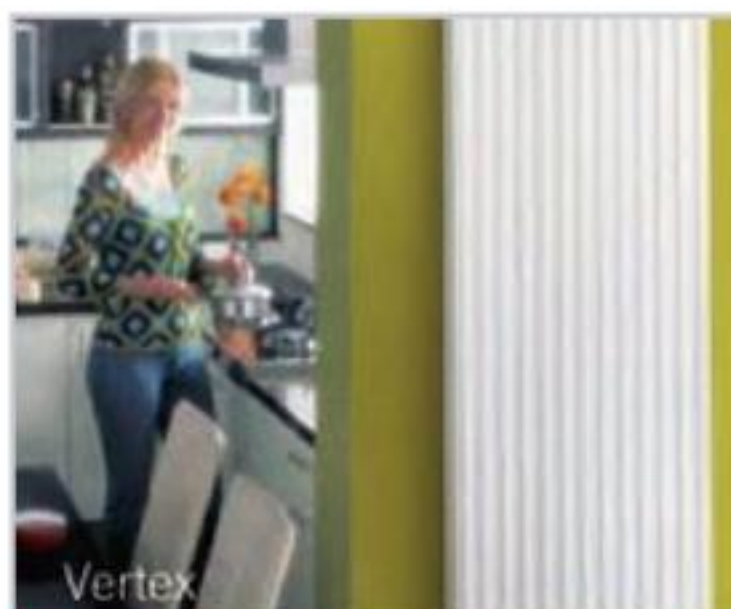


NGI Design

Continuously expanding its portfolio of beautiful and innovative products, interior specialist NGI Design, introduces the X.plicit range from Alape. Extraordinarily shallow, the X.plicit basin has brought a new perspective to the bathroom. With a depth of only 22 mm, the shallow basin height makes the basin appear almost flush to the worktop. The X.plicit collection comprises of 6 built-in basins, 2 sit-on basins and 6 washstands. Available in two widths with centred basin mould (700mm) and asymmetrical mould (1,000mm), the X.plicit basin is just 65mm high.

www.ngidesign.co.uk

Enq. 125



Vertex



Planar



Compact with Style

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Westin Design

Enq. 127



Westin Design's match made in Heaven

Westin Design not only matches performance with style, it matches its kitchen extraction solutions with every colour, material or texture its customers want. Reinforcing the trend away from steel in kitchens, Westin Design's custom service allows its hoods to be matched in every colour and clad in every material. This ensures the style and look of each individual kitchen, be it with maximum impact statement hoods, or with more discreet styling, whilst delivering the highest performing extraction to suit each individual requirement. Westin's design team will colour match from a swatch or pantone provided.

Tel: 01484 421585
www.westindesign.co.uk

Granite Transformations

Enq. 128



Granite Transformations' finishes feature at Rise Hall

The Italian granite, quartz and recycled glass agglomerate surfaces produced exclusively by Granite Transformations are usually associated with kitchen worktops. But for the TV property series, Beeny's Restoration Nightmare, the material was used in a quite different way; for cladding walls and bath surrounds in the bridal room's en suite facilities, two dramatic shower rooms and a particularly flamboyant 'Dream Green' bathroom. Emphasising its versatility as an interior finish, it also features as matching 300mm square floor tiles in all five completed rooms.

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

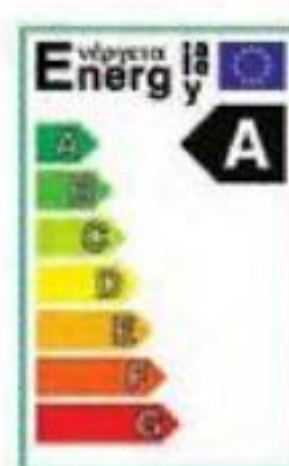


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GRUNDFOS

Enq. 129

bathrooms & kitchens showcase

JT

JT has launched the JT Flexi-Fix, a flexible, self-adhesive tiling upstand that creates a water-tight seal to reduce the risk of leaks when installing flat topped shower trays, baths and sinks. The innovative product is made from ethylene propylene diene monomer (EPDM) and has been produced specifically with the plumber in mind. The Flexi-Fix is a 3.2m long roll of waterproof membrane tape, which gives all the added benefits and security of a tiling upstand, removing the worry of leaks. The flexible product can withstand up to 15mm of vertical movement, making it apt for all installations, whether new build, repair or renovation.

www.just-trays.co.uk

Enq. 130



Aromabath

Luxury London showroom, Aromabath, introduces a chic new design from Decotec; New York. Representative of the fashionable city it is named after, the latest bathroom furniture range from Decotec has a cool sense of sophistication. Wall hung for a modern look, the worktop and basin blend seamlessly into one. Offering a simple design that can be tailored to suit, the eclectic mix of finishes available for the furniture include 25 lacquer finishes and 4 genuine wood veneers. In addition the basin is available in the following finishes; 10 Gloss Ceramyl®, 3 matt Solid Surface or 11 translucent resin.

www.aromabathjpd.com

Enq. 131



Ellis Furniture

Just in time for spring, the new Inspire Gloss Azure kitchen from leading manufacturer Ellis Furniture is guaranteed to brighten up the heart of any home with some luminous, yet subtle, on-trend high gloss colour. The Inspire Gloss Azure is made from high gloss acrylic faced MDF glass effect PVC edged doors supplied on an 18mm glued and dowelled rigid carcass and features large, deep Blum soft close drawer boxes and extra length steel bar handles. Also available in Gloss White, Gloss Black and Gloss Aubergine, the Inspire range can be made to order.

www.ellisfurniture.co.uk

Enq. 132



KitchenAid

Luxury manufacturer KitchenAid's 90cm flush-fit, mixed technology, KHM9010 is instantly recognisable as a product of the highest quality, with its grand cuisine cast iron grills and its solid ergonomic controls with built-in electronic ignition. The looks of this excellent hob do not deceive. It is a masterpiece of flexibility and reliability, housing intelligent functions for precisely accurate cooking results. The cooking options offer the best of both worlds, bringing together the precision of induction cooking and the real flame and drama of gas. There are two induction zones and three professional gas burners.

www.kitchenaid.co.uk

Enq. 133

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Enq. 134

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Gledhill Building Products

Enq. 135



Gledhill answers copper conundrum with stainless steel solution

Gledhill Building Products has devised the ideal defence against pricing uncertainty caused by the rising cost of copper with the launch of the industry's first ever stainless steel vented cylinder designed for the volume replacement market. Focused on leading innovation in cylinder design and providing the trade with practical solutions, Gledhill has developed the new EnviroFoam Stainless Steel Vented Cylinder to offer a high quality, efficient and eco-friendly alternative to copper cylinders. The trailblazing new stainless steel cylinder is being offered by Gledhill at a comparable price to copper under current market conditions and offers both the reassurance of performance of stainless steel and price stability.

Frontline Bathrooms

Enq. 137



Frontline Bathrooms reveal new own brand products in latest bathroom guide

Frontline has unveiled its biggest ever brochure, boasting over 256 pages including a new collection of own brand products that are exclusive to Frontline. The catalogue is available both in print and online. It features over 6000 contemporary and classic products enabling an entire bathroom to be designed from one central place, making planning, delivery and installation a seamless process. The full colour brochure has been created as a comprehensive reference with the emphasis on quality. Frontline's Marketing Director, Michael Sammon, says "2011 is an exciting year for us with the launch of so many exclusive own brand products. The brochure has been designed to take the hassle out of purchasing bathrooms."



Enq. 136

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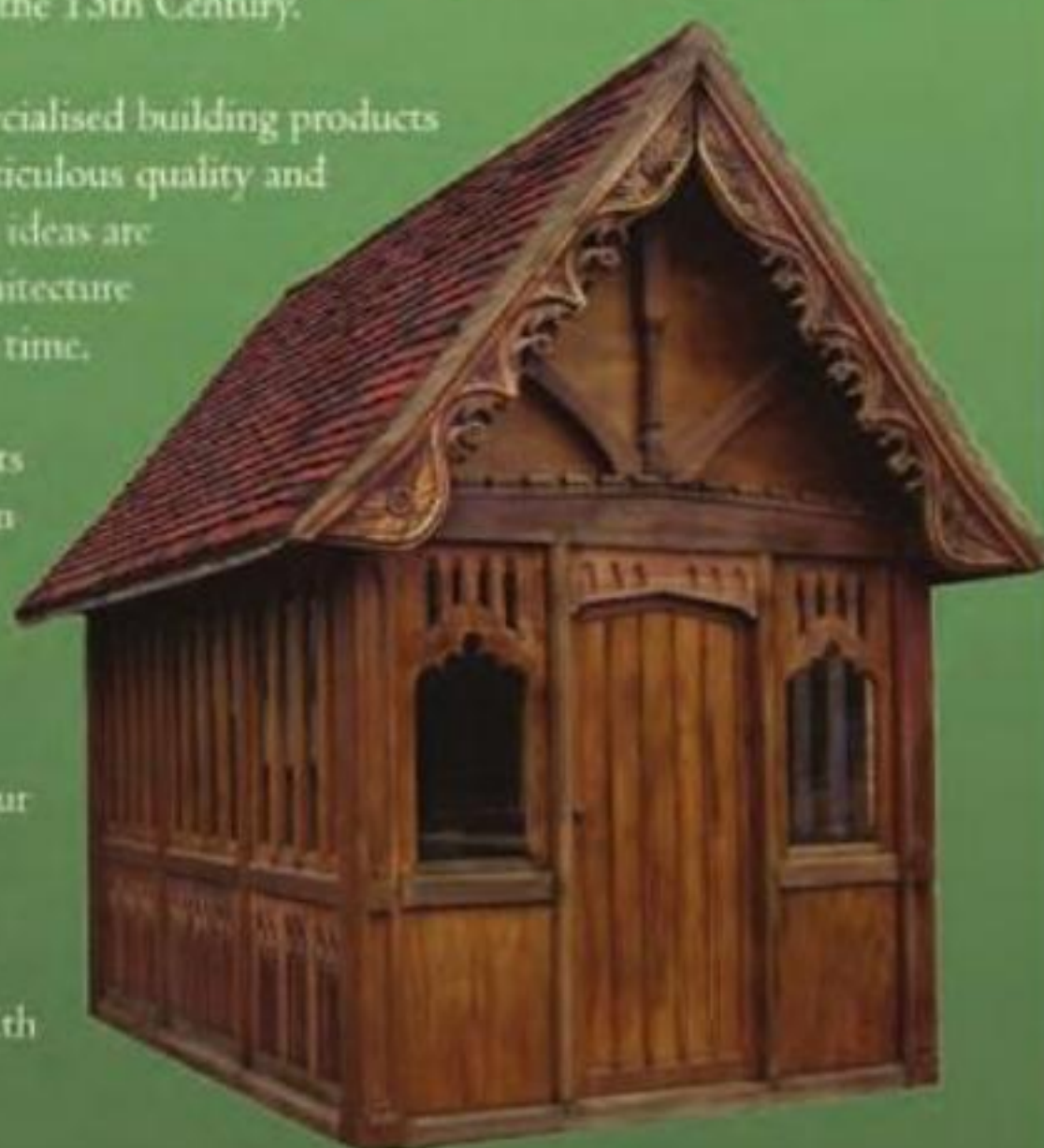
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Enq. 140



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Enq. 141

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Enq. 142

join·er·y |'joināre|
noun

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



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Enq. 143

McArthur Group

Enq. 144



Introducing the Scheme Green range

Scheme Green is a new product range introduced by McArthur Group to conform with the Code for Sustainable Homes, the national standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes. Family owned McArthur Group, established over 170 years ago, have reacted to the needs of the modern Building Industry to offer products which attain points toward star rating on new builds. McArthur Group have their own UK manufacturing plant which produces many of these commodities. Created and developed using high quality materials, this range provides great value and longevity.

Tel: 0845 372 1839
www.mcarthur-group.com

Carlisle Brass

Enq. 145



Classic letterplate range extended

To complement their existing range, Carlisle Brass are introducing current products in polished chrome and satin chrome finishes. The new finishes have been added to the range of inward opening push flap and outward gravity flap letter plates. These will enhance the company's Victorian-style external door furniture products which include Letter plates, cylinder pulls, door knobs, viewers, chains, bell pushes and numerals. The M36 range forms part of the Classical Collection of architectural ironmongery designed to offer plain and simple lines with classical styling for timeless popularity. The range embraces both interior and exterior door furniture as well as matching window casement fasteners, espagnolette handles, pins and stays.

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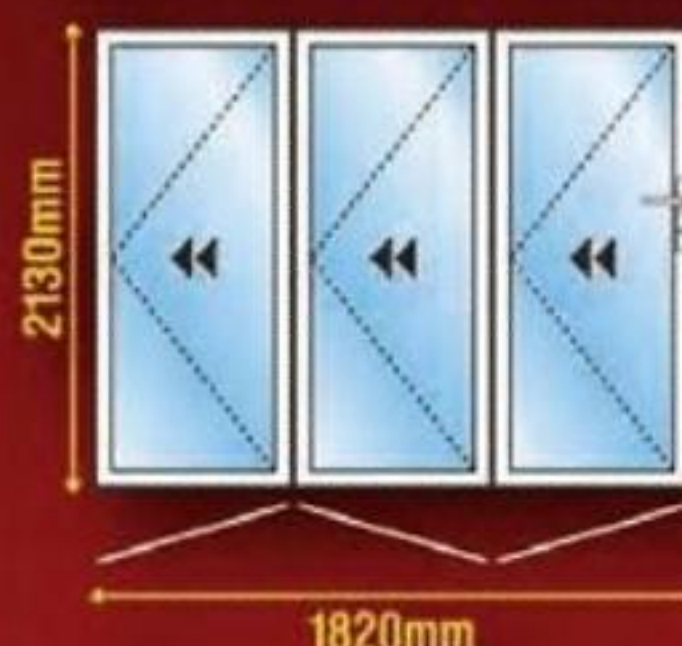
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Garador in Yeovil is the home of one of Europe's most advanced production facilities for garage doors. It's advanced technology produces a mass array of doors every day and one of its special features of the Yeovil facility, and one of which MD Simon Hipgrave is particularly proud, is the ability to be able to offer bespoke doors of all sizes. Anything is possible in terms of size of the Garador range of Georgian, Beaumont, Cathedral, Horizon and Carlton. The doors are available from 6ft 6in x 6ft 0in, right up to 16ft 4in wide by up to 8ft high, in increments of just 10mm.

the Garador range of Georgian, Beaumont, Cathedral, Horizon and Carlton. The doors are available from 6ft 6in x 6ft 0in, right up to 16ft 4in wide by up to 8ft high, in increments of just 10mm.

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folding sliding doors - sliding doors - windows - roofing - high security front doors - pre-finished complete internal door sets

Enq. 151



Bi-fold doors create the illusion of space.

fold doors often spanning a room's width or length, the area of glazing is significantly increased, flooding the room with natural daylight, thus significantly reducing the need for electrical light sources.

Although an extremely high proportion of a bi-folding door system is taken up by the glazing, homeowners should still ensure the structure's framework is suitable. Reputable door manufacturers will offer bi-fold systems in a number of different colours and styles to ensure the door can seamlessly integrate into any property. Timber frames have long been considered an inspirational choice and are particularly popular among homeowners wanting to add perceived value to their property. They are also becoming increasingly popular with the eco conscious specifier, having recently been named the window material of choice by Greenpeace.

Self builders in search of architectural distinction should look to bi-fold doors with aluminium frames. Offering the best of both worlds, aluminium frames combine the contemporary good looks with increased durability and weather resistance for added peace of mind.

Dependable manufacturers will be able to offer a wide portfolio of bi-fold doors covering aluminium, aluminium oak clad laminated timber, engineered pine, engineered oak and aluminium clad engineered pine, and in white with additional options for more RAL colour variations. Units can also be stained or lacquer finished.

Our units are tested to EN1279 and fully glazed with Pilkington Toughened Low E glazing, with upgraded Thermix spacer and argon fill. In addition, different width frames ranging from 70mm, 80mm and 115mm to suit the style of the particular building are available.

Careful consideration to the architectural design of the doors can dramatically transform the overall aesthetics of a property. Bi-fold doors continue to be extremely popular; not only can they create the illusion of more space and provide striking aesthetics, but they can also contribute to a building's overall energy efficiency.

Enq. 152

Finger on the pulse

Gary Hutton, General Manager at Black Millwork, looks at the benefits of bi-fold doors in maximising the desirability of a property.

In today's current economic climate, homeowners are looking for something extra special to justify the cost of building or renovating a property. Therefore, self builders need to have their finger on the pulse in looking for new and innovative ways to make their home both unique and desirable, and to increase its value.

The look and feel of a house, inside and out, can be largely influenced by the choice of windows and doors; a simple way to put a unique stamp on a property in terms of character and style, whether this is in keeping with the surroundings or to create a statement.

Bi-fold doors can be an essential tool in creating a premium feel for any home. They create the effect of an extension of the property, opening up an entire room, creating an ideal space to live and entertain in.

The large glazed areas and slender frames of which bi-fold doors are comprised makes them extremely popular with homeowners, as they create the illusion of space. Bi-fold doors can span a wall's entire length, elongating a room's interior and creating a seamless extension from the inside to the outside.

It is not just the exterior of a property that ignites reaction; the atmosphere inside is equally important. The windows and doors form a primary function in allowing natural light to filter through, opening up a room and effortlessly creating more space. The amount of light that is allowed through a window can dramatically affect the mood and well-being of the occupants. Utilising the best in design and innovation can

ensure the desired style is reflected from the outside through into the interior.

In addition, the exceptionally large glazed areas that bi-fold doors offer not only increase a person's wellbeing, but can also reduce energy consumption. Studies suggest that increased exposure to daylight improves a person's wellbeing and is even mentioned in The Code for Sustainable Homes. Category Seven - Health and Wellbeing aims to improve the quality of life in homes through good day lighting, reducing the need for energy to light the home. With bi-



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Enq. 153

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Enq. 155



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Enq. 156




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Enq. 157



Matching entrance and garage doors from Hörmann

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Hörmann's hard earned reputation for value for money is backed up with highly specialised manufacturing that ensures Hörmann are able to offer the best quality at highly competitive prices. An added benefit of the Hörmann approach is that one off sizes and even completely bespoke garage doors are available at a modest additional cost.

Enq. 158

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Enq. 159

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Enq. 160

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Enq. 161

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Icynene

Enq. 163



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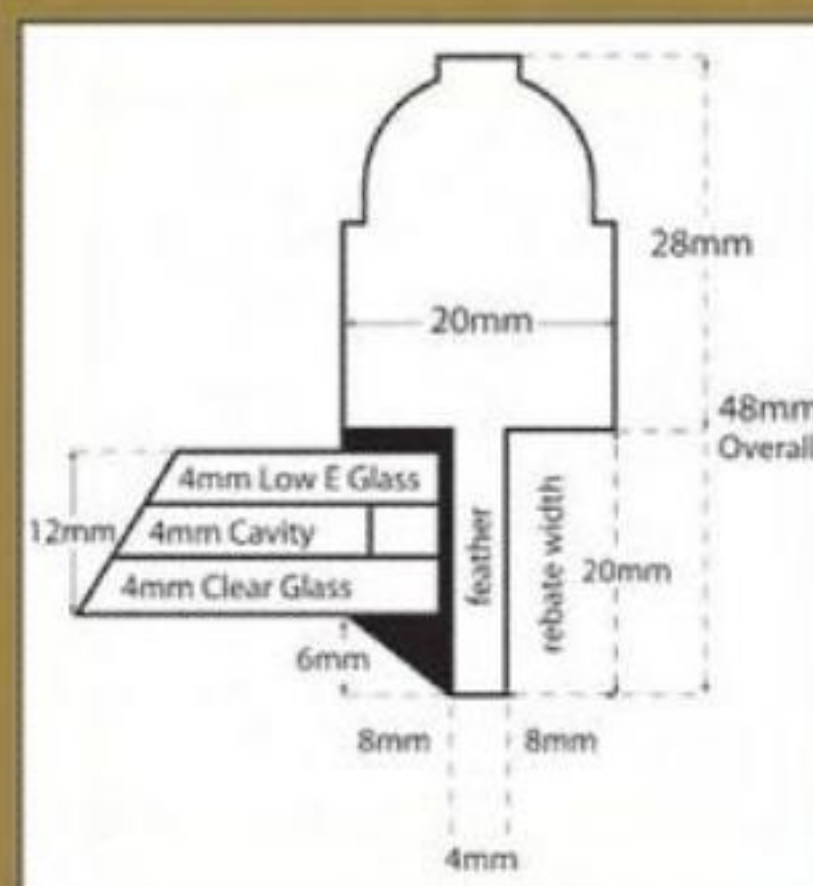
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Enq. 164

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BS EN 1279 Compliant



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Enq. 165

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Enq. 166

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Enq. 167

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Enq. 168

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*AFTER 7 HOURS THE STOVE IS STILL PRODUCING 25% OF ITS INITIAL HEAT CHARGE OF 200 DEGREES C ON THE OUTSIDE BODY.

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Ecobuild Stand S1870



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Julian Lloyd, Landy Vent Ltd - 01527857814
or email: sales@landyvent.co.uk

Enq. 169

Sentinel

Enq. 170



Domestic heating system filter removes both magnetic and non-magnetic debris

Sentinel is seeing encouraging sales of its highly effective domestic heating system filter which removes magnetic and non-magnetic system debris effectively from a heating system. It features a proven design, it's recommended by leading system component manufacturers and because it requires no energy to operate, it's very environmentally friendly – both in operation, and in that by removing debris from the system, it allows the heating system to operate at optimum efficiency levels, helping to reduce energy usage and as a result, CO₂ emissions.

Tel: 01928 588330

www.sentinel-solutions.net

Ecobuild Stand S2214

Mitsubishi Electric

Enq. 171

Ecobuild Stand S2030



Ecodan is part of the Grand Design

Mark and Debbie Sampson's unique straw bale house-with-a-view, featured recently on Channel 4's Grand Designs, has been built with loving care using wherever possible the most eco-friendly materials. Prime amongst these is an Ecodan[®] air source heat pump from Mitsubishi Electric. Ecodan will cut emissions by half over a gas boiler and reduce running costs by 30 per cent. Savings over oil, LPG and direct electric are even greater. The Sampsons are now considering adding the ability to source their hot water via the Ecodan unit to supplement the solar thermal system and guarantee a continuous supply. "We have been impressed with the reliability of the Ecodan and it could provide us with hot water when the solar thermal can't," said Mark Sampson.

High Specification Flat roof skylights

Ecobuild Stand N330



SkyView



Pyramid



Horizon Walk on



Internal walk on



Aero



Aero Access

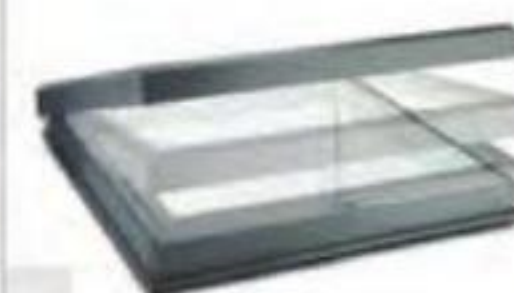
Sunsquare Limited offer a range of skylights including solutions for fixed units, hinged opening with both electrical and manual opening mechanisms, roof top access, and walk-on skylights. The entire range of standard skylights are manufactured from our own suite of extruded aluminium profiles, which are all thermally broken with two polyamide insulating sections. The framework of all products also benefits from our unique Decorstop detail – which allows the plasterboard to be integrated within the frame, so as to minimise internal sight lines.

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**NEW BROCHURE
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Sunsquare Limited
High specification flat roof skylights



Enq. 172

Sustainable future

Ecobuild will be taking place at London's ExCeL on Tuesday 01 – Thursday 03 March 2011. It will be showcasing sustainable construction products, with more than 1,300 exhibitors, together with dozens of interactive attractions and live demonstrations. Against the background of economic uncertainty over the last few years, and the current spending cuts, Ecobuild represents the construction sector's most important challenge, and it's greatest opportunity; that of creating a sustainable built environment.

NaturalZed

Ecobuild is the platform for major launches including, for 2011, Bill Dunster's straw house StramitZED. It's the very latest in his eco housing stable; a straw board home that can be built for £135,000; £20,000 less than the normal cost of constructing a code level 6 house. The StramitZED house is a joint venture between ZEDfactory and Stramit Technology Group. The straw boards are combined with timber and insulation from recycled newspaper and made into cassettes to build the homes.

Solar hub

Highly topical is Ecobuild's Solar hub which will explain the fundamentals of photovoltaic systems; how they work, what components they include, and how and where to install them, with daily demonstrations and talks on building integrated photovoltaic tiles (BIPV), photovoltaic systems (PV), benefiting from the feed in tariff.

Renew

Renew provides practical advice on achieving one of the most important aspects of an energy efficient building; a highly insulated, air tight building envelope, with daily live demonstrations of internal and external insulation for solid walls, loft insulation, insulated floor bases and glazing solutions.

Water wise

New for 2011, Ecobuild's Water wise will bring visitors up to date on the changes to Part G of building regulations, understanding the water efficient systems and appliances that can now be installed into buildings. It will also explain the measures that can be put in place to significantly reduce our water footprints by fixing leaks, using

water efficient white goods and other water-saving technologies, as well as implementing simple but effective behavioural changes, and demonstrating that not only does a reduction in water consumption save energy and carbon, but that it brings financial savings for consumers.

Natural, traditional

Another favourite with regular visitors to Ecobuild is the Natural, traditional sustainable attraction, where daily interactive demonstrations will cover a wealth of natural materials and traditional techniques including dry stone walling, straw bale construction, rammed earth, cob brick making, traditional carpentry and lime rendering.

Seminar Programme

The 2011 seminar programme, free to attend, is Ecobuild's biggest ever with over a dozen streams and more than 130 seminars covering the most pressing concerns for built environment professionals:

- future energy
- energy in buildings
- regulations revealed
- simplifying standards guides and tools
- refurbishing Britain
- sustainability and the city
- sustainable by design
- sustainable small projects
- from grey to green
- sustainable architecture & design
- beyond construction
- installer business
- installer skills

Seminars are brought to life through a series of interactive attractions and live demonstrations taking place on the exhibition floor, from how to



install a solar panel or a green roof to timber frame construction and applying exterior wall insulation.

Conferences

The Ecobuild conference in 2011 comprises three streams and examines the key issues surrounding sustainability, construction and the built environment, from big picture debates, such as international political co-operation, global economic models, behaviour and psychology of climate change, and the role of science, through to more domestic challenges such as how the UK construction sector needs to change, how to refurbish the existing stock, decarbonising electricity generation, the impact of localism and the big society on planning (and in particular the housing sector).

An innovation that's bound to be popular for Ecobuild 2011 is the introduction of an online itinerary planner which allows visitors to plan their visit in advance, including the times and locations of conference and seminar sessions, and live demonstrations, as well as listing exhibitors and products of interest. The exhibition will be organised in technology zones, with similar products, relevant seminars and attractions, all located in the same area.

Venue

ExCeL London
One Western Gateway,
Royal Victoria Dock,
London E16 1XL

Opening Times

Tuesday 01 March	10.00 – 17.00
Wednesday 02 March	10.00 – 18.00
Thursday 03 March	10.00 – 16.00

Get your free ticket now at www.ecobuild.co.uk



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Ecobuild
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number S1560



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EcoRoof: Extensive

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www.longrakespar.co.uk, admin@longrakespar.co.uk



Enq. 173

Steico

Enq. 174



Energy saving indoor climate control

Steico shows Europe's leading expertise in natural wood fibre insulation and construction solutions for the perfect year round energy saving indoor climate – and healthier buildings – on Stand No S815 at Ecobuild 2011. The range offers quality and performance using certified sustainable materials while reducing CO₂ emissions and saving on energy consumption. They provide cosy warmth in winter and a cool retreat in summer for houses, commercial and industrial buildings. Insulations like Steicoflex and Steicotherm help meet new Part L, the Code for Sustainable Homes.

Tel: 01582 768321

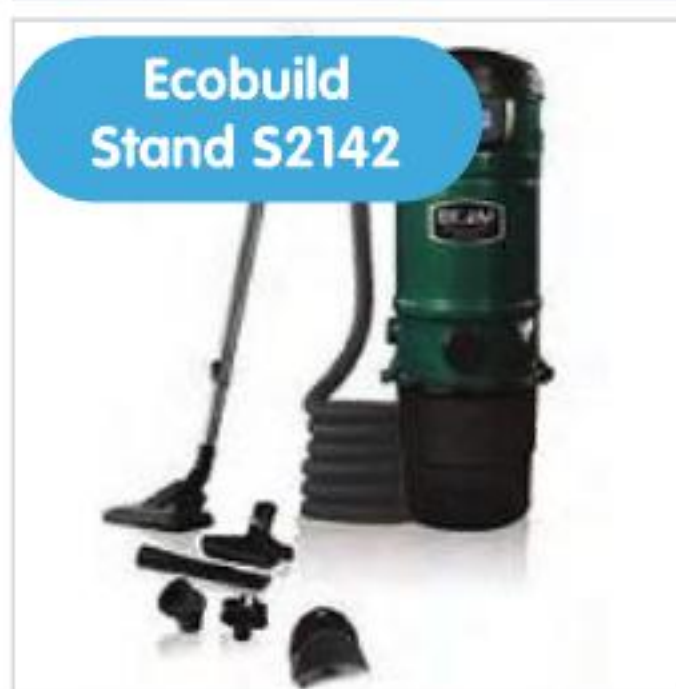
www.steico.co.uk

**Ecobuild
Stand S815**

Total Home Environment

Enq. 175

**Ecobuild
Stand S2142**



Beam goes green with limited edition unit

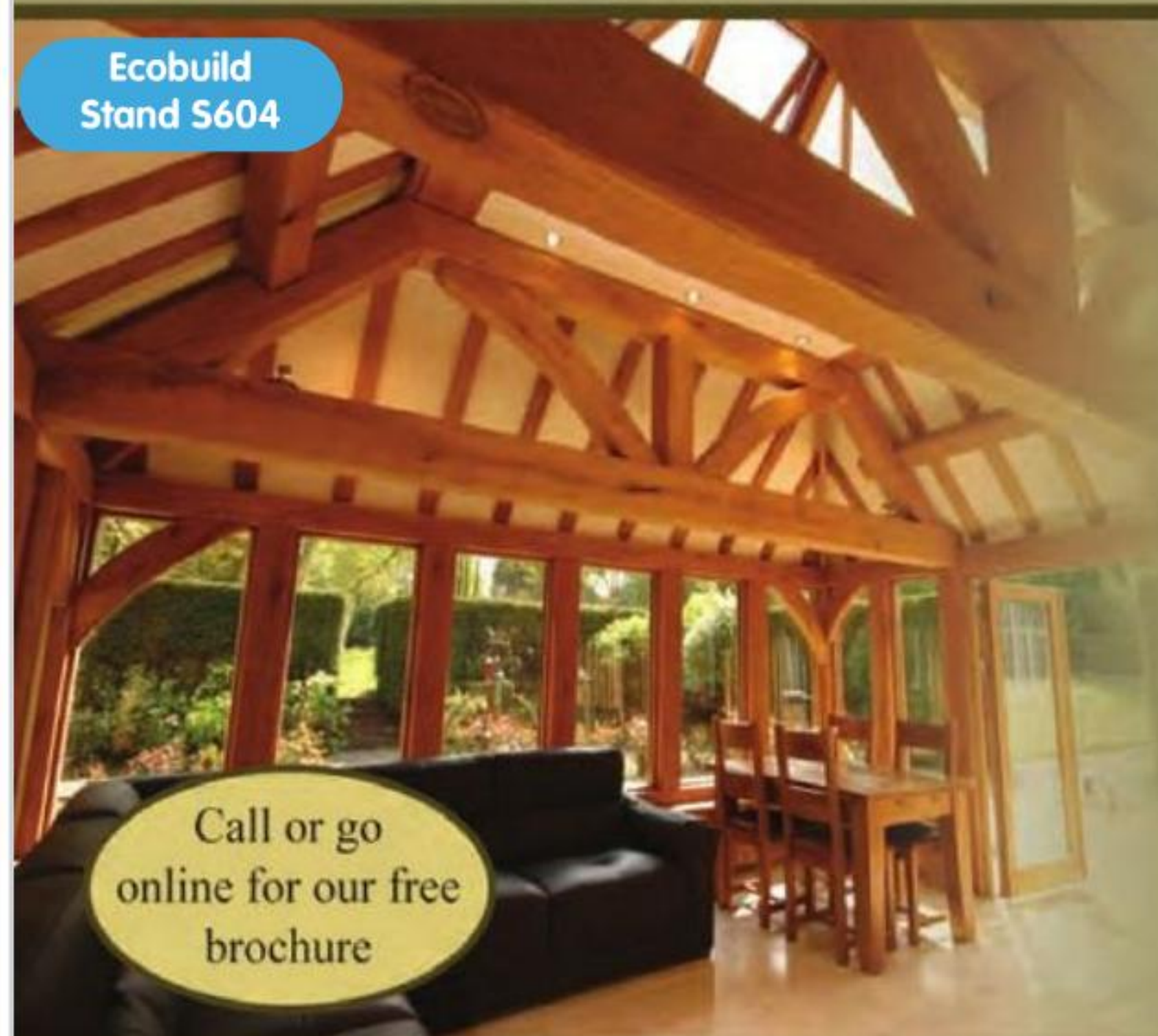
The popular Beam Platinum 335 central vacuum from Total Home Environment is now available in a limited edition all-in-one green unit for a special offer price of just £599 + VAT. The limited edition metallic emerald green unit, made by Electrolux, has a builtin LCD display to monitor system operation, total operating hours, time and temperature as well as keeping track of dirt bucket

capacity for optimum system performance. The special edition unit also comes with a remote speed control hose to provide further energy savings and a kit of three inlets for a standard four-bedroom house included in the package. All-in-one packaging of the unit with a 4 piece cleaning set reduce packaging materials and lower transportation resources.

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Stand S604**



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Enq. 176

Honeywell Environmental Controls

Enq. 177



Heating controls are the key to huge energy savings, explains Honeywell

It's simple and cost effective to achieve huge home energy savings while making a home cosier – that's the message from Honeywell (Ecobuild stand N1661). Honeywell experts will be on hand to provide energy saving advice and demonstrations of its range of energy saving thermostats and timers. These include Sundial RF² wireless control packs which are clean, quick and simple to fit, yet reduce energy wastage. They feature TPI (Time Proportional and Integral) advanced energy saving control, which provides more accurate temperature control than traditional controls.

Tel: 01344 656172.
www.honeywelluk.com

**Ecobuild
Stand N1661**

Fermacell

Enq. 178



**Ecobuild
Stand N861**

Fermacell to launch innovative product to tackle VOCs

Fermacell is using Ecobuild (Stand N861) as a 'launching pad' for a revolutionary new product called 'Greenline' that effectively tackles VOCs (volatile organic compounds). Many of today's products contain these potentially harmful gases including building materials and furnishings, paints, lacquers, cleaning compounds, glues and adhesives.

The main difference between 'Greenline' and standard Fermacell high performance dry lining boards is the addition of a natural additive that absorbs VOCs leaching out of compounds as gases. Fermacell is manufactured from 100% recycled materials and are 100% recyclable, thereby helping to improve the overall BREEAM rating of a building.

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Enq. 179



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Enq. 180

Ecobuild
Stand S1755

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- ✓ Incorporate into existing heating system



www.ecoangus.co.uk 01934 862642

Enq. 181

NIBE Energy Systems

Enq. 182



NIBE Energy Systems at Ecobuild 2011

NIBE Energy Systems will be showing a wide range of its products on Stand S2010 at Ecobuild 2011 on 1st to 3rd March at ExCel, the new location in docklands. Ecobuild is expected to be a vibrant occasion and it's billing as "The world's biggest event dedicated to sustainable design, construction and the built environment" seems well justified. NIBE will show a complete range of the

company's systems designed to supply energy for central heating and hot water supply using exhaust air from the home, from air in the outside atmosphere and from ground sources and this will include the launch of the new NIBE Solar.

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

Grundfos Pumps

Enq. 183



Grundfos at Ecobuild 2011

Grundfos Pumps will be exhibiting on stand 1421 at Ecobuild. Being at the forefront of sustainable development and innovation, Grundfos have been leading the way in energy efficient pump design for many years. The Commission of European Communities EuP Directive states that from 2013 only A-rated glandless standalone circulators can be installed. The EuP ready A-rated Grundfos

ALPHA2 is the most advanced energy efficient domestic circulator on the market today and is the latest version of the World's best selling circulator the Grundfos Selectric (15-50 & 15-600).

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Ecobuild
Stand N1220



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Enq. 184

At Sensible Heat we believe that HVAC should be controlled properly. By using Hometronic, manufactured by Honeywell, we can make sure each room is at the right temperature, at the time you need it - you can save energy and be more comfortable too!

Ecobuild
Stand S2002

Honeywell

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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.



Webmanager features include:
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> Interface to Control4

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www.sensibleheat.com

Enq. 185

Chilstone

Enq. 186



Support for wooden structures

The modern vogue for timber buildings such as car ports, period garages and even old style hay ricks has led to an upsurge in demand for traditional staddle stones; the small stone feet that are used to support wooden structures protecting them from damp and providing a firmer footing for the construction. Modern staddle stones have a simple rusticated cubic form and come in a variety of shapes and sizes. These modern staddle stones perform a similar task but are quite different to medieval-style mushroom shaped staddle stones. Today the traditional style is more valued for its pleasing form. Both styles are still available from stonemaker Chilstone of Tunbridge wells, who make staddlestones by hand as they have always done, even supplying major conservation organisations.

Arada

Enq. 187



Fondis; at the forefront of innovative design and style

Fondis prides itself on the design and quality of its fireplaces and cassettes, the company has been at the forefront of innovative design on the continent and due to its policy of constant improvement has advanced the frontiers of wood combustion. Today, Zero CO models are the cleanest burning wood products on the market, and with efficiencies up to 89% they are also the most efficient. With its various styles you will definitely find a design that will make a statement. See us on stand S2060 at Ecobuild 2011.

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info@theoakglasshouse.co.uk



Enq. 188



Ecobuild
Stand S1972

Reduce your CO2 emissions and add value to your home.

Document L of the building regulations was introduced to focus on the efficiency's in New Build Homes. Subsequently the regulations have been revised in April 2006 and October 2010 to improve CO₂ savings required in all New build properties. Part L1A 2010 aims to reduce emissions by 25% over part L1A 2006. This is a 40% improvement over a dwelling built to 2002 regulations. There are many solutions to enable you to reduce CO₂ but they generally only increase efficiency by a small margin. Our concept offers substantial reductions & savings in comparison to traditional heating methods and additionally adds a stylish and focal point to your home. The concept works by introducing a high efficient, Carbon Neutral, clean burning wood Stove as an alternative or complementary heating source.

Please visit www.co2savings.co.uk for further details & information on how this simple solution can work for you.

Enq. 189



- Roof Dragon are suppliers and makers of dragon/gargoyle roofing finials for your new or existing roof.
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Enq. 190

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EXPRESS SCREED

Enq. 191

James Latham

Enq. 192



Lathams' new flooring division - a 'one stop shop' for the trade

James Latham's new dedicated flooring division opens its doors for business in January. The new 'one-stop-shop' will see Lathams' extensive range of solid and engineered wood flooring, as well as adhesives, screeds, underlays and liquid DPMs, all displayed under one roof. Lathams introduced a range of pre-finished wood flooring across all nine of its depots seven years ago which included its now well established and highly regarded Bausen brand. However, the business has evolved and grown to a point where a centralised, specialist division is now required.

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

Mitsubishi Electric

Enq. 193



Ecodan® secures another vibrant environmental award

Mitsubishi Electric has secured the Product Award category for its Ecodan® air source heat pump (ASHP) residential heating system at the 2010 Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) Awards. VIBES recognises and rewards the efforts of Scottish businesses to become more efficient and competitive through improving environmental performance and benefiting their bottom-line. VIBES chair Alan Farquhar commented: "All of the winners [...] are a great example to others and it shows how developing management systems, services and products to deal with environmental challenges, can make real cost savings whilst identifying new business opportunities."

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Enq. 194

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Enq. 195

CLEARVIEW STOVES

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Clearview Stoves offers the complete solution for homebuilders & renovators

Clearview Stoves are the largest dedicated manufacturer of clean burning wood stoves. We have been designing, manufacturing and distributing from our site in the heart of Shropshire since 1987.

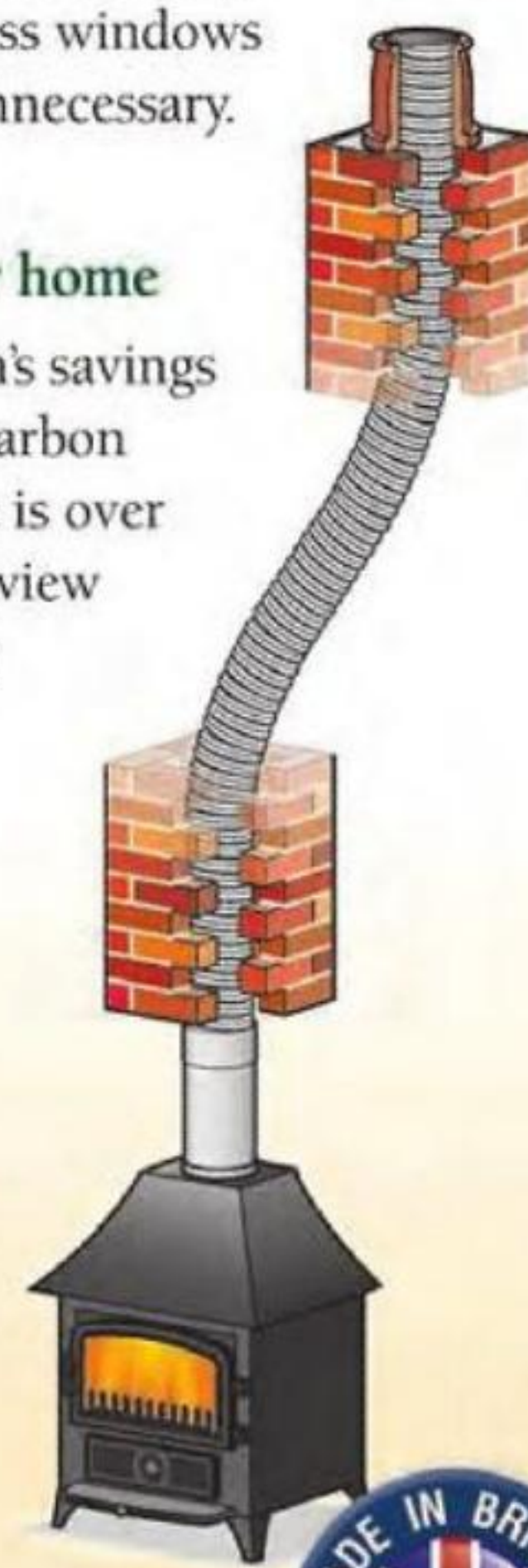
Our installation and product knowledge is unequalled in the industry and we have thousands of accessories and flue components in stock, so whether you are building a new house or renovating an old one we can provide the kind of expert advice that results in a trouble free installation.

A pleasure to use

Our stoves are a pleasure to use. They are easy to light and burn for long periods unattended. They offer an exceptionally large view of the fire through double glazed ceramic glass windows and burn so efficiently that frequent cleaning is unnecessary.

Good for the environment and good for your home

Burning oil, gas and coal is like spending the earth's savings and it's changing our climate. Burning wood is a carbon neutral way to heat your home. A Clearview stove is over 70% efficient, most open fires are only 10%. Clearview stoves can be directly connected to an external air supply so enabling them to conform to recent building regulations.



Eng. 196

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Exclusive 2 for 1 ticket offer to the Ideal Home Show

The Ideal Home Show are offering this exclusive saving for Selfbuilder & Homemaker; get 2 weekday tickets for just £16 and 2 weekend tickets for just £18!

Offer expires: 28th February 2011

The multi-award winning Ideal Home Show, Britain's best loved home event, is returning to Earls Court for its 103rd year revamped and better than ever! The world famous and trend setting home show will take place from 11th-27th March 2011 and Selfbuilder & Homemaker has secured an exclusive ticket discount for our readers.

The Ideal Home Show will take visitors through an exciting and spectacular showcase of inspirational living that combines eight different sections into one show including; ideal Interiors, ideal Home Improvements, ideal Gardens, ideal Food & Housewares, ideal Gadgets, ideal Shopping, ideal Woman and the ideal Show Homes, creating the UK's biggest home show.

This year's show explores the world of home interiors and style, unveils a series of industry firsts and UK product launches, and offers more interactive features than ever before. There's everything from DIY to fine dining, gadgets and pampering, as well as a host of celebrity guests across the 17 day event; a great day out with something for the whole family, all rolled into one.

This year's celebrity experts include TV Presenter and home improvement expert George Clarke, BBC's star food critic Gregg Wallace, Interior Designer Linda Barker, TV Presenter Fiona Phillips, expert Gardener Diarmuid Gavin, and gadget queen Suzi Perry, among many more, who will host a series of workshops and seminars to help visitors achieve the ultimate Ideal Home.

With over 600 exhibitors offering an unrivalled range of products, visitors to this year's show will find everything from the smallest simple tricks to invigorate the home to inspiration and advice for complete renovation, extension and new build projects.

Ticket offer

Purchase tickets for the show at this exclusive discounted rate. Get up to £18 off the on-the-door price (full price adult tickets) with this 2 for 1 ticket offer, simply by quoting IHSP12 when you order. Tickets can be either booked online or by calling the Ticket Hotline on 0844 415 4144 or through the website, www.idealhomeshow.co.uk.

Ticket information:

	On Door	In Advance
Weekday adult	£16	£11
Weekend adult	£18	£13
Weekday concession (Over 60s)	£11	£9
Weekend concession (Over 60s)	£13	£11
Children under 16	Free (ticket is required) *	
Late night Thursday open until 9pm	£5 after 5pm	£5 after 5pm
Transaction fee	n/a	£1.50

*Children under 16 do require a ticket which should be requested at the time of booking. Each child must be accompanied by a paying adult.

Opening times:

10am – 6pm every day
10am – 9pm Thursdays

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Enq. 197

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Bespoke Fireplace Designs

Enq. 198

RED HOT



Model shown - Firebelly **FB2** in Shimmering Rose



Exhaust air heat pump extends the options from Ariston

The NUOS exhaust air heat pump is a brand new type of renewable technology that has joined the Ariston range. The NUOS is similar in appearance to a regular electric wall-hung cylinder, only it incorporates an air source heat pump into its design. The heat pump, situated at the top of the unit, transfers the heat from the ambient air into the cylinder, heating the stored water to a temperature of 55°C. As a result, impressive energy savings of up to 67% can be achieved compared to traditional electric storage water heaters. The NUOS offers the option of up to 10m of ducting, allowing the appliance to be installed in an alternative location to the area from which heat is being extracted. The NUOS offers different operating settings, thanks to the backup heating element within the appliance. This has an output of 1.2kW and can be used to 'top up' the water temperature if necessary. 'Eco-mode' is the default setting for maximum energy savings, whereby the water temperature is increased and maintained only by the heat pump, with automatic switching to ensure the desired temperature is reached at the programmed time.


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Enq. 200



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Enq. 202

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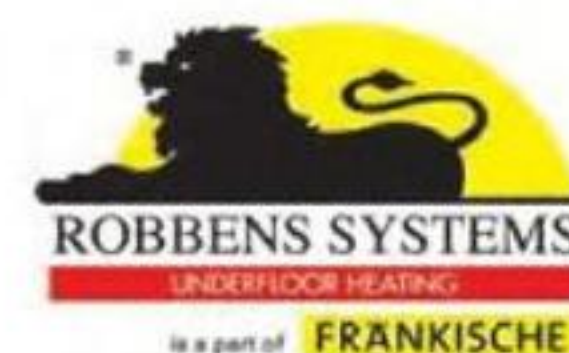
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Enq. 203



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Enq. 206



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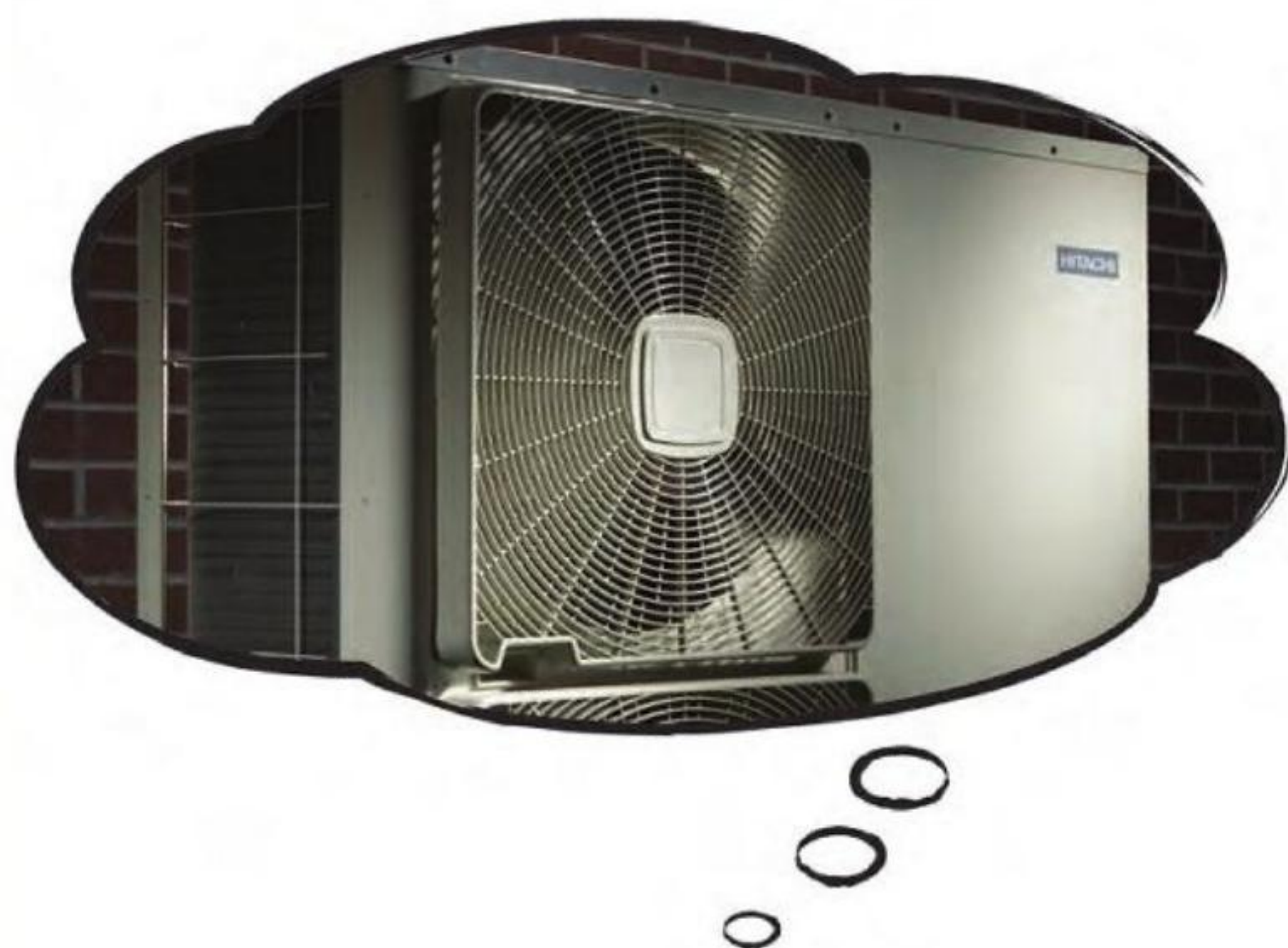
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Enq. 208



Under floor heating is suitable for carpets however, performance depends on the pile's thickness.

Like all house builders in England and Wales, self-builders must comply with Building Regulations. This means the design must meet a target carbon emission rating and, using a national calculation model for compliance, can choose a range of fabric and service specifications to achieve the target. It's a simple proposition. However, what really marks the self build market out from the rest tends to be the pursuit of solutions for a house that really works efficiently and as a comfortable living space. Many self builders want to live in the homes they are building! That is why under floor heating (UFH) is increasingly popular.

We can move on to efficiency later but what many of our companies have learnt from their customers is that under floor heating is a desirable feature because it allows for an increased usable floor area for furnishing, stripping away the need for what one house builder once described to me as wall acne. Apart from the aesthetics, it is also a very flexible and efficient method for distributing heat. Pumping heated water through a large area of plastic tubing gives a great coverage for heat transfer and, with the heat delivered from floor level, the room is heated evenly. Whole room heating with a low temperature distribution system is inherently more efficient than heating pockets of air around radiators.

Efficiency

This point is very important when considering that a house relies on system efficiency rather than appliance efficiency on its own. A European study commissioned by Euray (the European Association of Surface Heating and Cooling) found that even in researching a dwelling with unfavourable fabric efficiency values for under floor heating, there will be a 5% efficiency benefit when combined with a condensing boiler (because it condenses more regularly), and 20% and 30% for air and ground source heat pumps respectively (due to their reliance on low temperature distribution). This comparison was against low temperature radiators so the efficiencies compared to normal radiators are considerably more.

This proves the strong link between heat distribution, heat transfer and the heat pump source. Additionally, these results can be enhanced with effective room controls. Also, if you consider that the study used European floor U values of $0.48\text{Wm}^2\text{K}$ compared to a more realistic UK figure of $0.2\text{Wm}^2\text{K}$ for new-build projects, there are

Installing underfloor heating

Kelly Butler, Marketing Director of BEAMA and Association Director for the UHMA (the Trade Association for Surface Heating and Cooling) outlines the features and benefits of under floor heating.

greater savings to be made for the self builder.

What controls are used with UFH?

A room thermostat is generally used and night set-back systems are common, where rather than turning off the system, the thermostat drops to a lower temperature setting. This is considered to be good practice and more efficient than simple on/off, especially with heat pumps that prefer continuous operation for maximum system efficiency. However, temperature set-back should not be set so low that it becomes an off period.

Time clocks and programmers are also used in much the same way as with radiator systems and



Stone floors achieve excellent results

fully programmable room thermostats are also a popular option. You will need to ask your system provider for advice on whether compensation as some UHMA members favour it to enhance efficiency. As with all heat systems, the more controls specified the better the system performance. However, even with basic controls, under floor heating can give better design emission ratings for carbon compliance under regulations than radiators for both heat pump and condensing boiler heat sources.

What is the maximum permitted floor temperature for UFH for given surface finishes?

A commonly asked question from customers and specifiers, but floor temperature has to be viewed in its proper context. Without a temperature difference between the floor and the room there can be no heat transfer, so to a great extent it is the room heat requirement that will affect the choice of floor finish and can occasionally completely change preferences.

However, the current Building Regulations require such good thermal insulation in construction that only major renovation projects (old buildings) have to re-consider the suitability of a floor finish.

- BS.EN 1264 Part 2 sets the maximum foot comfort temperature as 29 C
- Part 4 sets floor limits for wet rooms (33 C) and perimeter zone up to 1m (35 C)
- Vinyl Flooring (standard products) and linoleum flooring carry a 27 C surface temperature limit
- Wood floors should normally NOT operate at more than 27 C (moisture dependent)
- As among the most used floor coverings, carpets and carpet tiles will accept any floor temperature in the range permitted.

Is my floor construction suitable for UFH?

A wide range of systems are available, and each under floor heating provider promotes their own preferred systems. UHMA members have systems suitable for floor, ceiling or wall fitting i.e. for renovations, extensions or new builds; for domestic or commercial projects; for heating or for cooling or for both; for background heating or primary heating; for mixing with other heat emitters; for all types of heat source; for solid, timber or floating floors.

The range is wide, and whilst UHMA cannot suggest any particular system or application, a useful guide is that vinyl, linoleum and laminates all provide good performance, but note the various maximum floor temperatures. Stone floors can provide best under floor heating performance. Carpets are a common floor covering and are suitable for under floor heating, but performance will depend on the pile's thickness.

Who do I contact for design and installation advice?

All UHMA members are committed to promote a sustainable and quality industry backed by good and best practice principles.

Enq. 209



Wood floors should normally not operate at more than 27 C.

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Enq. 210

Nu-Heat

Enq. 211



Nu-Heat Underfloor and Renewables

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Hot Floors Underfloor Heating

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Enq. 214

Sweet dreams

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www.amode.co.uk

Enq. 215

Zoning – Major trend for the bedroom

Betta Living designer Jamie Dean advises, "The Cassia is perfect for customers who want to create this season's new trend for the bedroom; zoning. Separate out sleeping and entertainment/dressing spaces within one bedroom by using contrasting flooring – we've used porcelain tiles in the dressing area and plush carpet with thick pile rug in the sleeping zone. Creating different levels for each area is also an easy way to zone, and floor-level fitted furniture is a great way of achieving this or, if you want to keep the space a little more open and spacious but still create a zone, use glass panelling."

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Enq. 216



Sleep easy

Sleep is vital to our wellbeing and on average we will spend a third of our lifetime asleep. The Sleep Council experts explain that disturbed sleep can make you feel depressed and lead to further stress in your life. Concentration is also impaired from lack of sleep therefore experts recommend we invest in our bed and mattress to provide optimum sleep quality. Achieving a good "posture" in bed is vital. Ideally, the mattress should mould to the shape of your body whilst remaining supportive to avoid back pain and discomfort on hips and shoulders. With a superb range of lavish mattresses and divans, Raines & Willow offer the perfect sleep through National Bed Month this March... and for many years beyond!

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Enq. 218

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Enq. 220

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Toolstation

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Toolstation's catalogue 38 is brimming with new products

Toolstation's newly launched catalogue 38 is brimming with new products, top brands and low trade prices. Take for example the new range of heavy duty power tools from Milwaukee. With high performance pipe cutters, inspection cameras and drills, these are sure to be a hit. Big brands feature throughout, including new ranges of Yale locks, Earlex sprayers and Lee Cooper work wear. All of Toolstation's Catalogue lines are stock items, and customer orders placed before 5pm are despatched for next business day with free delivery on orders over £10.

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Enq. 222



Boddingtons

Boddingtons will be exhibiting their GrassProtecta® grass reinforcement mesh and BodPave® 85 porous paving grids for grass and gravel surfaces at Ecobuild this year. Designed to reinforce and protect the ground while allowing rainwater to infiltrate directly into the ground at source. Applications include trafficked areas: grass car parks, gravel coach parks, access roads, grass paths, fire access lanes, wheelchair paths and driveways. Other exhibits include Bodcell™ geocell for tree root protection where a trafficked surface is required without causing damage to the tree roots. For more information visit us at stand S1452 at Ecobuild.

Enq. 223



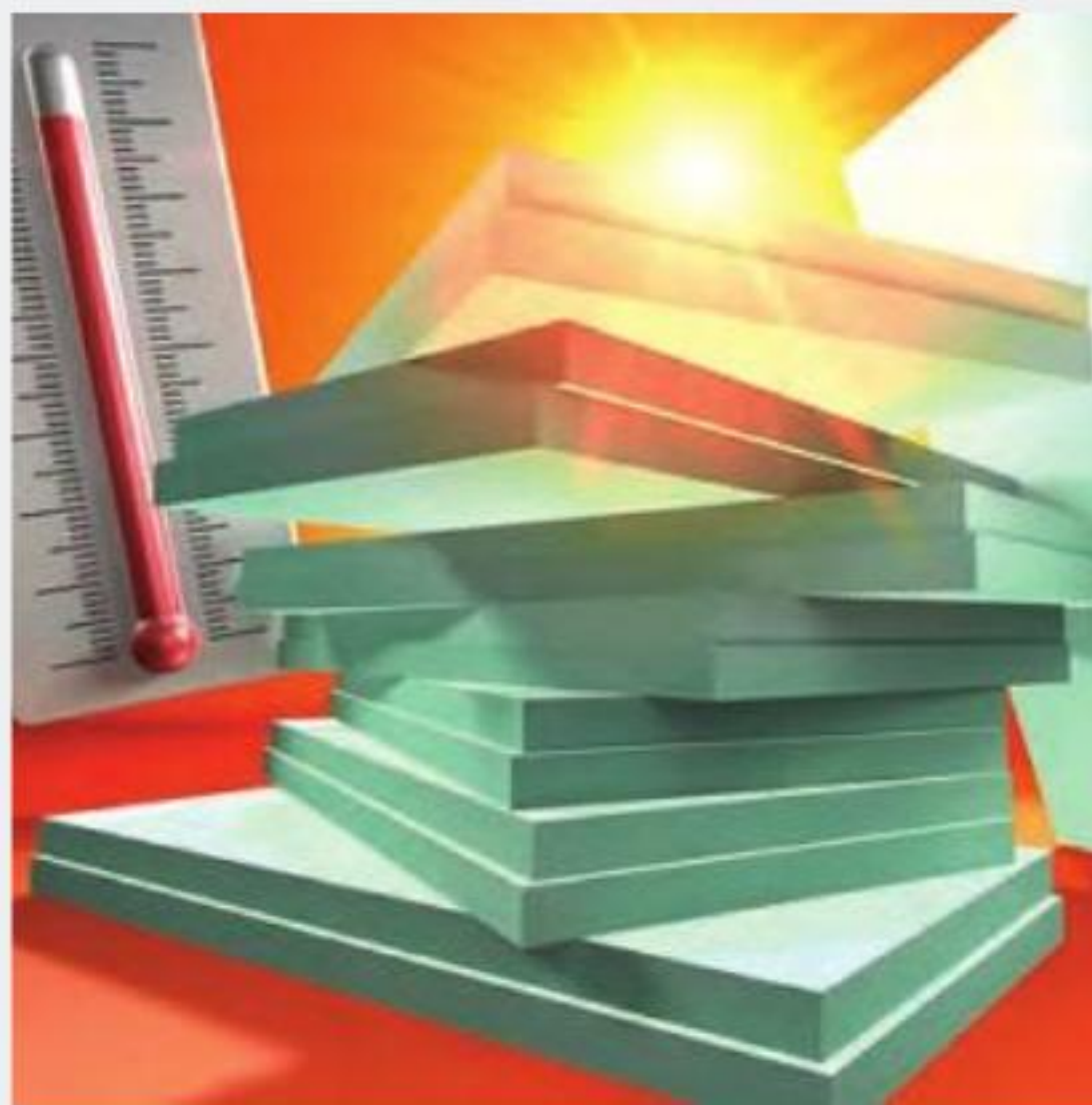
FEIN

FEIN presents its most powerful oscillator with battery technology. The battery-powered FEIN SuperCut is the latest addition to the interior and renovation product range, which has been continuously further developed by the long-standing German company for more than 40 years. Thanks to state-of-the-art lithium-ion technology, the battery-powered FEIN SuperCut delivers even more flexibility on the construction site. It is fitted with 18 volt batteries and achieves excellent work progress comparable with that of the mains-powered FEIN SuperCut Construction. The FEIN SuperCut Construction is developed for heavy-duty sawing and cutting work and is the most powerful oscillator on the market. With up to 18,500 oscillations per minute and a large oscillation angle, it works around 3.5 times faster than any other oscillator.

Enq. 225

BASF

BASF has now extended its range of extruded polystyrene rigid foam panels (XPS) with an innovative product. The new insulation material is called Styrodur® HT (HT = high temperature). Its key feature is a heat distortion temperature of up to 105° Celsius (application limit temperature). This makes the foam suitable for all applications exposed to high temperatures and requiring the proven properties of Styrodur C: high compressive strength, low water absorption, resistance to rot and outstanding insulation performance. Like all of BASF's Styrodur C panels, the insulation panels can be recognized by their green color. Conventional XPS can be used at a temperature of up to 75°C.



Enq. 224



Douglas Delabie

Douglas Delabie's Sporting Shower Panel is neat and stylish (chrome and brush aluminium finishes), combining performance (delivers pre-set flow rate of eight litres/min) and durability to stand up to heavy changing area usage patterns, plus effective water savings. Easy to install and clean, it is vandal-resistant. Prefabricated, the shower panel is a true second fix item requiring just three wall fixings. Installation and wall sealing requirements are reduced. Low maintenance – the nozzle jet showerhead reduces scale build-up and featuring a serviceable cartridge - the unit is used with a TMV to provide a safe water temperature and prevent scalding.

Enq. 226



Ecoease

With five of the six big energy suppliers already announcing price hikes, UK households are looking for more and more ways of reducing their energy consumption and bills. Secondary glazing, a low cost and flexible alternative to double glazing, offers the perfect way for homeowners to reduce energy loss in a time of austerity and combat a winter that has already been one of the harshest on record. Ecoease has seen demand for their easily self-installed magnetic secondary glazing increase dramatically since the pre-Christmas cold snap with hundreds of consumers feeling the benefits of a solution that costs a tiny fraction of double glazing. Ecoease Director John Feely says; "We are getting a very positive message from all of our customers that secondary glazing not only leads directly to reductions in fuel bills but also almost eliminates condensation and noise pollution."

Enq. 228

Just Taps Plus

For an effortless kitchen or bathroom update, choose from the extensive brassware collection from Just Taps Plus, designed to make a stylish feature in any home. Sophisticated yet striking, the metro range offers a clean finish whilst the GQ design adds a splash of classic luxury with a wide flat spout for an ultra smooth water flow. For a masculine and distinctive finish, modernise your brassware with the Carlo collection or sprinkle a touch of femininity with the Ovaline range. If you are after a streamlined finish, the sleek lines of the KI-Tech range and Cascata overhead shower with dual function are perfect choices. Pictured is the Metro single lever basin mixer with click clack waste, LP 0.3 in Chrome: £182.90



Enq. 227



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Strawbale adventure

The UK produces 4 million tons of surplus straw every year – enough for 250,000 homes. Straw must have the lowest embodied energy of any building material and is probably the cheapest and most sustainable.

Brian Balfern Waite shares his experiences on the use of straw bales in the construction of his eco home in Cumbria.



Get the bales the year before you intend building, have good dry storage and start in the spring.

The Catalyst

Straw seemed a viable eco option; however research threw up a number of concerns. Firstly, trying to persuade my wife to contemplate any of the straw bale houses on the internet; quaint to see but un-nerving when it came to forking out the cash. Secondly concerns arose regarding the moisture levels within the bales in the UK climate (especially as we knew we would soon be heading for Cumbria). Overcoming these problems, and by keeping the design simple, there was a chance for a low energy, low cost home.

The Design

The most obvious way to keep costs down is to use the bales structurally however, after reading a number of straw bale studies, these concluded that within time the structural loads would gradually be transferred to the lime render/plaster as the straw settled and aged. The engineer in me could not accept this, so I decided on a timber frame.

The simplest structure is an A frame which I bowed slightly to give the first floor the same width as the ground floor – inspired by medieval cruck frames. This vaulted shape also enabled the whole building to be enclosed by the bales so eliminating the thermal and structural weak point between vertical wall and horizontal ceiling. All I had to do was to ensure the natural tendency for the walls to thrust outward was contained.



A frame shape is inspired by medieval cruck frame.

My construction allows for very smooth (curved) walls which give a more solid feel to the build, thereby reassuring my wife (the ultimate test) and mortgage providers.

Straw needs to breathe so lime render is a must, but I couldn't see the usual use of large eave overhangs to protect the walls from rain working into exposed locations so, in my design, the tiles entirely cover the bales and the moisture level concern is tackled by drawing ventilation air up between the exterior of the lime rendered bales and the sarking. The difference between the entry of this air at three foot from the ground and its exit at twenty five foot up creates a strong chimney draught, which is further amplified by any solar heating of the tiles. The exterior lime is left rough to present more surface area for the passing air to suck out any moisture.



The gentle curved shape allows the bales to rise, seamlessly, all the way to the ridge.

Myths

Now let's get rid of our childhood stereotype of straw homes. They are much more fire resistant than normal timber framed houses because the straw is too tightly packed to maintain a fire, and there are no internal cavities to create a chimney effect that would accelerate combustion.

Vermin are not a problem because there is no nutrition in straw and little chance of them getting through one inch of lime render.

Planning

My local planning dept. were vehemently hostile with ridiculous remarks like 'Cumbria is not a place for innovation', straw is an 'alien' material and my design would be of 'visual detriment to the area' (I overlook a million litre slurry tank, two fifty foot galvanised silos and three acres of tin barns!). I successfully appealed, but unfortunately another year had passed. Next came local building control - vindictively obstructive is the only fair description. Therefore I was forced to engage an independent building control firm in Dorset (only 350 miles away). Unfortunately the delay meant I missed the harvest again.

The next hurdle to overcome was financial, however, this crisis was averted by undertaking the majority of the work myself, the only drawback being the extended timescale.



The whole structure is to be set on a low plinth wall of brick or stone.

The Build

During these delays I tried, unsuccessfully, to find a manufacturer for the curved ribs, so I used the time to make them myself by building a wooden jig in a polytunnel. They proved to be quite easy to make – just a bit repetitive because at one metre spacing (bale length) I needed 24 of the sods (technical term).

They were erected (using a £20 hand winch and a conveniently situated telegraph pole) in time for the arrival of the bales - and the Cockermouth floods. Unfortunately we are not only the wettest part of England, but surely the windiest as well, so the entire structure had to be covered with a massive tarpaulin which required battening down every couple of foot.

This forced a change of plan; instead of installing the bales from the outside as originally intended I devised a way of doing everything possible from the inside. Progress was made over the winter ready for the lime spraying to start at the end of May (June being the only fairly reliable (weather-wise) month here in Cumbria) except the lime man called off with two days notice! Lime sprayers are a rare breed these days so I was lucky to find another but he couldn't start until August costing me 12 weeks of our 4 week summer. However, he gave lots of advice enabling me to spray the exterior of the bales myself. This was completed just before the frosts arrived. The sarking boards and roofing felt followed, so making the building weather-tight ready for the inevitable November winds and rain.

As I write I have started on the tiles which will be finished as and when the weather permits. Apart from the lime plastering the rest of the build I have managed on my own.

The positive side of this is that if I, at 68 years, can do it then it's well within the abilities of a young family or self-builder. Finally I have to own up to the fact I have never been in a straw bale house except my own so am in no way an expert. I always seem to design things I know nothing about but, once started, I deliberately maintain my ignorance so as to approach whatever I perceive a problem without pre-conceived ideas or prejudice. It has been a high risk strategy that has paid off for over fifty years – so far!

Enq. 234



Strawbales are sandwiched between the beams.



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Enq. 235



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Keeping it simple

Joe Wild, Founder of Ecomerchant, (part of the Burdens portfolio of green businesses), imparts his extensive knowledge on the installation of rainwater systems within the following article.

The decision to install

There has been some debate recently about whether or not we should bother installing rainwater harvesting systems due to the levels of carbon emitted into the atmosphere, caused by installing a Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) system, compared with using the Civic mains sewers and piped water supplies. Technically large scale treatment of waste water and the supply of treated drinking water does impact less if you ignore the other benefits of localised storm water attenuation, localised drought restrictions (hose pipe bans) and also the pressures on civic scale systems where demand has increased beyond the ability of the system to cope. Therefore, in reality, rainwater harvesting is a sensible inclusion for most new build or major refurbishment projects.

Mains water makes most sense when comparing the environmental impact of bottled water with tap water; the issues associated with manufacturing and shipping plastic bottles around the world just doesn't stack up, however, tap water is often treated with fluoride and chlorine and there are some that express concerns about the levels of treatment our drinking water receives due to health risks connected with these treatments. To date, in this country, rainwater harvesting is infrequently used as a source of drinking water due to the regulatory controls and costs associated with high level filtration systems such as reverse osmosis. Many other countries do not have our level of regulation and freely drink rainwater with little or no filtration. Obviously naturally purified spring water is best

and there are risks with rainwater, particularly the collection medium and storage. Roofs are used to collect rainwater pretty much as a by-product of building design, so our tiles and slates and gutters are our collection mediums. In new build projects avoid heavy metals such as lead, plastics that are not aquatic friendly, and avoid roof materials and designs which result in a build up of moss.

Size and installation

Sizing the tank is critical as it is best to slightly under size the unit to allow for purging off the top layer of water when the tank overflows to a soak away or sewer. This keeps the water fresh and reduces the build up of floating organic matter which could multiply and taint the water. When sizing the tank ensure you know which downpipes can feed into the rainwater system as it is not always possible to harvest the water from all downpipes due to ground levels and access around the property, so only include in your calculation the areas of roof you can actually harvest from. Also ensure you can physically get the tank to the desired location; positioning tanks in back gardens or terraces can be problematic, however, there are an increasing number of novel solutions including sectional tanks that can be assembled on site. Placing tanks below ground reduces the risk of warming the water and bacterial growth, however, the ground conditions must be assessed as high water tables can exert enough pressure to push a plastic tank out of the ground, and some ground conditions may be too difficult and costly

to excavate, so ensure the system is correctly designed for your site.

Pumps can be located inside the tanks and push water into the property or stationed in a utility room and suck the water from the tank. Both options have their advantages and disadvantages with some people preferring the simplicity of the in-tank version over the more costly in-house version. However, the in-house version has no moving parts within the tank to maintain as all the major components are mounted in a box the size of a gas boiler in a utility room or kitchen.

Designed to suit you and your property

When designing or buying water filtration kits bear in mind that your rainwater is unlikely to directly replace all of your water demand, in which case keep the system simple and use it for flushing toilets (which accounts for around 30% of water used in the home), washing machines and garden irrigation. Purification to drinking water level is possible but involves extra filters such as UV or reverse osmosis, however, the downside is the additional cost and it may result in very low draw off rates. Rainwater harvesting systems should be designed to suit you and your property. Packaged kits are absolutely fine but make sure you either get good advice or know what you are buying, or just keep it really simple and use less water and buy a rainwater butt to do your bit for the planet!

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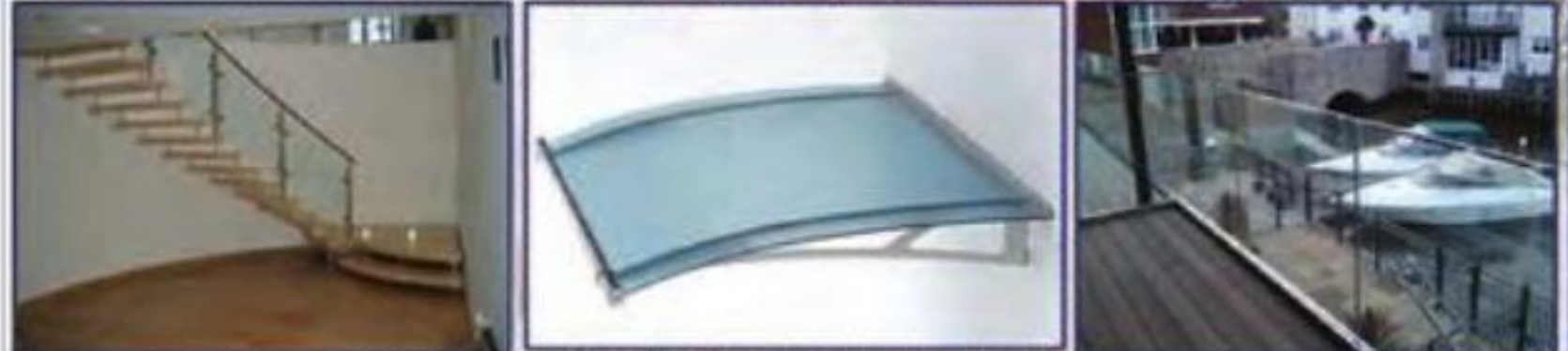
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First impressions count and, as the hallway is often the first room in a property to be viewed, setting the right tone can be crucial to its appeal. As a result, selecting the right design for the hallway's most prominent feature – the staircase – is an important decision.

Carefully selected stair balustrades can also create valuable visual impact because, as open-plan living remains popular, design-led stair balustrades can also be used to create an attractive feature that will add style to the main living space.

Safety first

Safety is paramount. All staircases that rise above 600mm must be fitted with balustrades that have been tested to withstand the required loadings, as set out in BS6399, in line with the requirements of Part K of the Building Regulations.

Staircases serving a domestic dwelling should have balustrades that can resist a horizontal loading of 0.36kN/m; the accepted equivalent force of one family member falling against the balustrade.

Substance and style

In terms of design, it's worth selecting a staircase that will complement and reflect the look and feel of a property.

Self builders can maximise the feel of their property due to the revival of traditional timbers, such as White Oak and Ash. The upmarket luxurious finish of White Oak creates a premium look ideal for prestige properties, while the subtle, pale colouring of Ash complements the current trend for lighter timbers that can help smaller spaces like hallways to feel brighter and more spacious.

Classic timbers with their rich, interesting textures and luxurious appearance can add character to staircases within period property conversions, where tradition, quality and authenticity are all highly valued. Staircases fitted with a White Oak or Ash balustrade can indicate a high level of craftsmanship and attention to detail.

White Oak has also soared in popularity in recent times as the timber of choice for flooring, doors and kitchens, so it's no surprise that today's savvy self builders are continuing the theme in hallways with White Oak stair balustrades.



Making an entrance

Today's self builders and renovators can select from a diverse range of staircase styles that can add value to their home. Here, Leigh Sperring, Specification Manager for Richard Burbidge, takes a look at the issues that should be considered when specifying a staircase.

Show some metal

For a more contemporary look the latest stair balustrade systems are fusing timber, metal and glass to transform traditional perceptions of staircase style. Just as modern metals have been integrated into furniture and domestic appliance design, contemporary chromes and matt nickel finishes can now be found alongside timber, which would previously have been the only material you could expect to find in a balustrade system.

Glass panels have proved particularly popular in recent times as they can help to maximise the sense of space and light in small hallways and can also be used as a contemporary design feature in dwellings where the staircase is in the lounge or main living space.

Fixing and fitting

Breadth of choice also extends to the range of fixing options now available. Once the staircase has been constructed, joiners will progress to fitting the balustrade. Traditional joinery techniques used in post-to-post mortise and tenon and over-the-post handrail systems will deliver a high quality professional balustrade.

Alternatively, post-to-post bracket fix systems utilising a bracket mechanism can save time and eliminate the need for complicated mortise and tenon joints, without sacrificing the finished jointing quality or strength.

And if speed and ease of fit is paramount, then innovative systems such as FUSION® can deliver valuable time and labour savings. Intelligently designed, it uses clever brackets and connectors, pre-cut balusters and pre-finished handrails to greatly reduce the installation time required.

To help differentiate, and add value and appeal to a property, self builders should carefully select a balustrade that suits the property's aesthetics and

needs. The right stair balustrade can improve the future saleability of both classically designed and modern homes and, compared to many other personalised options, a stair balustrade is affordable and easily recouped if one decides to sell.

So, for self builders wishing to give the most luxurious, high quality finish to their home, staircase design is another area where they can boost appeal and make a good first impression within seconds of a person entering.

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