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The Dominican sofa collection from Oceans Home & Garden (OHG).

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Janet White, Marketing Communications Manager at Aqualisa.



#### **Energy Saving Tips**

Thinkinsulation.com (Knauf).



#### **Living the Dream**

Stephen Boad, Managing Director at Intervari.



#### **Taking the Plunge**

SPATA (the Swimming Pool and Allied Trades Association).



#### A Guide to your Dream Garden Studio

Stuart Anderson from Hilton Garden Studios.



#### **Building for the Future**

Barbara Fischer-Clark, Stommel Haus, Clark & Fischer-Clark.



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News

## \* WIN! \*



## **COMPETITION:** WIN LUXURY **BATHROOM FITTINGS** FROM DEVA!

reathe a new lease of life into your bathroom with some luxury bathroom products worth more than £500 from Deva, one of the UK's leading suppliers of taps, showers and accessories.

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To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic prize all you need to do is answer the question below:

Name Deva's award winning water and energy saving shower kit

Please email your answers together with your name and address and contact telephone number to:

lesley@netmagmedia.eu

Competition closing date: 27th August, 2010

## \* WIN! \*



#### New SuperWhite WR Flex Has Arrived! It's Blindin'!



Ultra Tile, an **Instarmac** brand, has launched a new brilliant white, highly flexible wall tile adhesive. SuperWhite WR Flex is the latest edition to the Ultra Tile range of ready mixed wall tile adhesives. Suitable for interior use it is specially formulated for areas subjected to constant wetting i.e. changing rooms, showers, kitchens and bathrooms. It is ready to use, workable, and highly flexible so can be used where vibration is likely. Its increased water resistance combined with anti-fungal technology ensures the adhesive is fully mould resistant.

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#### **Competitive ATEA Walk**in System from Kermi

introduction to the extensive ATEA range of enclosures is a major breakthrough in design freedom for Walk-in Showering at highly competitive prices. ATEA caters for installation onto the rim of recessed or conventional shower trays or installed directly to the floor for Wet Rooms. The Designer has total freedom to create showering space to suit virtually any application with or without a shower tray choosing from a wide range of panel sizes and fixing options. These include supports from floor to ceiling or floor to wall which are engineered for rigidity and safety without compromise to the stunning minimalist design.

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#### **HiQu from Aqualisa**

HiQu is the latest collection of digital showering and bathing solutions from the award-winning manufacturer Aqualisa.

Combining fabulously smart looks with sophisticated, intuitive performance, the range includes showers, baths and must-have accessories such as statement showerheads and handshowers.

LED displays on the shower and bath controls guide you to your perfect bath or shower - flashing red and moving in a clockwise motion as the water warms up, or flashing blue and moving in an anti-clockwise motion if you select a cooler temperature.

Meanwhile, one-touch start/stop activation, the option of remote control, plus three bathing options ensures the HiQu range is familyfriendly, too.

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# Showering Control

Janet White, Marketing Communications Manager at Aqualisa, talks about putting the wow factor into your wet room.

ot so long ago, wet rooms were thought of as luxury projects for affluent consumers only. However, thanks to advances in materials and technology, a wet room is now an accessible option for many consumers, whatever their budget. In fact a wet room has evolved from being an expensive home improvement to one that is not only capable of transforming the smallest of spaces, but also an addition that can increase a property's value and desirability.

As the demand for wet rooms has proliferated, so has the requirement for products that meet their criteria, not least statement showers that use the latest digital or advanced thermostatic technology.

However, before we get into the detail of showers, let's look at the practicalities first. Without stating the obvious, it is essential that wet rooms are tanked and properly waterproofed. Other basic decisions include flooring, tiling, heating and core features such as whether your wet room will have a tiled, graduated floor or a recessed shower tray.

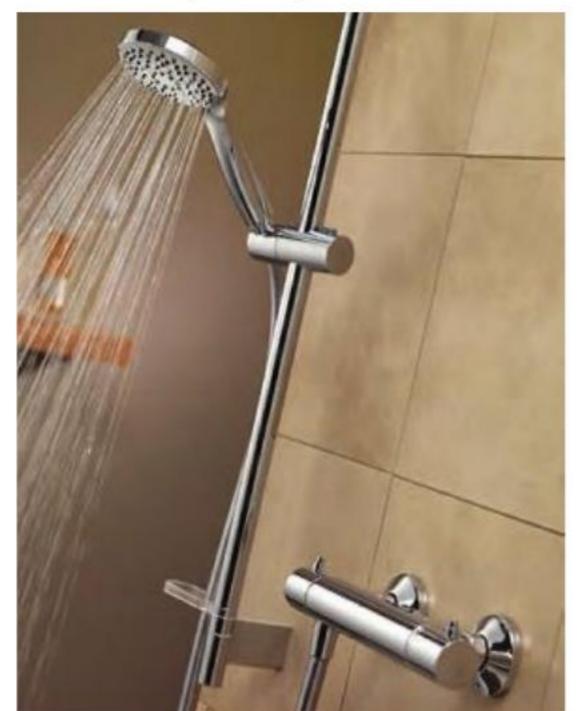
Consider the future, too. As we prepare to tighten our belts once again, many of us are making home improvements that we hope will still work for us in 10 -15 years' time. Whether you are planning your 'forever home' for a growing

family or refurbishing with inclusivity in mind, it is vital that you integrate those requirements into the design and layout of your wet room early on.

So what sort of shower should you choose? Today's showers are increasingly sophisticated and whether of the conventional thermostatic type or the new digital variety, they are capable of delivering a great showering experience; whilst thankfully not compromising on accessibility and water usage.

If you are creating your wet room from scratch you will have more options in terms of the type of shower you choose. However, the choice can be overwhelming, so the first decision to make is what technology to opt for. Traditional showers have mechanical valves and pipe work that must be either built into the wet room wall or alternatively, surface-mounted. Bear in mind, however, that for a modern appearance even an exposed valve will still require its pipe work to be concealed in the wall. This is rarely a problem if your wet room is situated in a new extension, but it could be time-consuming if your wet room is being retrofitted e.g. you are creating the wet room in an under stairs space.

The answer to such dilemmas is a digital shower. Digital showers do not have valves but are controlled by a small processor box which is



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normally sited away from the showering area. The processor blends hot and cold flows of water with thermostatic precision and is connected to the shower's control by a slim data cable.

As the processor is positioned outside the wet room, installation is usually straightforward and damage to walls can be minimised. Remember that a concealed digital control will still require pipe work, but there is no valve to fit; rather a simple and often very minimalistic control, so for anyone planning a wet room as a retrofit, digital technology can be a wise choice.

Water usage is an increasingly pressing issue and, as such, it is sensible to look into showers that allow you to conserve water if you want to. Some digital showers have a processor-based eco setting. Very sophisticated digital showers sometimes offer an eco setting on the shower's control, whilst clever features such as pause buttons are also great, as you can temporarily halt flow whilst you shampoo, for instance. Water saving is not restricted to digital showers, however, and the availability of flow regulators and eco-stop flow buttons on thermostatic showers are all worth investigating.

A wet room is defined by how it works on a spatial level. Wet rooms should be open spaces that are free from the segmentation that installing shower enclosures and other, solid fittings creates. Although you might decide to opt for a single partition to zone the showering area, it is important that, as much as possible, your choice of shower reflects this ethos. Accordingly look for showers with slim line, understated controls. Similarly, be clever with your choice of showerhead. A ceiling mounted showerhead will maximise space; go one better by making it flush, too. An additional hand shower adds flexibility, especially if you have children or less mobile users to think about.

Do not discount the basics of how your shower actually works. Whilst some controls have striking aesthetics, you will soon tire of them if they are tricky to use. Instead, look for controls with simple functionality such as push button start/stop switches and LED displays that indicate water temperature readiness. If you choose a digital shower, you might also be able to specify a remote control. These can typically be used from up to 10 metres away from the shower, can be fixed or portable and are highly convenient.

Above all, remember that creating a wet room is a significant project and so, when it comes to its fixtures and fittings, it pays to spend a little time researching your options. Ultimately the right shower using the right technology will put the wow-factor into your wet room. So proceed with a decent checklist, get it right and look forward to great showering for years to come.

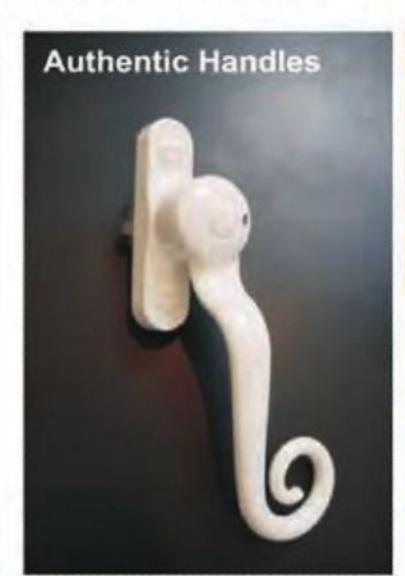


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#### **Xpelair Extend Popular MVHR Range**

**Xpelair Ventilation Solutions** is responding to the growing demand for mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR) solutions by extending its market leading Xcell range. The company has introduced the Xcell 200 Vertical MVHR range to complement its existing Xcell series, which were recently introduced by Xpelair to raise the bar in the ventilation market. The new Xcell 200 is available in two models (QV and QVW) and can be wall or loft mounted. The range is fully reversible and therefore can be handed to meet any ducting configuration, with front and rear access panels to give installers total flexibility.



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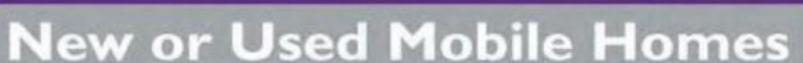
#### **New Look Line Up For Range of Packed Products**



Hanson UK's line up of packed building products - the broadest in the market has a fresh new look. The facelift is part of the company's development of the range which includes packed low CO2 cement, concrete, plaster, render and

decorative aggregates. Paul Lacey, Hanson UK's national marketing manager, explains: "Last autumn we brought together Castle Cement, Civil & Marine and our packed products division to form Hanson Cement. Since then we have been looking to give our packed building products range a new look. All the packaging now has strong Hanson branding." ...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

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#### **Kitemark Confirmation for Window Energy Ratings**

The new Kitemark Window Energy Rating scheme operated by the British Standards Institution (BSI) provides specifiers and end users of windows with clear, dependable and independently verified data on energy performance, and windows suppliers with a convenient and very cost effective route to regulatory compliance.

Energy performance of windows is an issue of increasing concern for consumers and Government alike and, from 1st October 2010 this concern will be reflected in changes to Approved Document L1B of the Building Regulations. From this date, all windows for use in England and Wales must have at least a band C Window Energy Rating, and in Scotland at least a band A or C rating, or a combined U value of 1.6 W/m<sup>2</sup>K. In order to continue selling windows, suppliers must be able to provide evidence that they conform to the legislation.

The new BSI Kitemark scheme not only provides the necessary evidence of compliance, it also offers other important benefits. It allows licensees, for example, to use the respected BSI Kitemark, which is recognised and trusted by 88% of the adult population as a mark of quality and safety. The Kitemark scheme is also recognised by the Energy Saving Trust, and licensees that achieve a B rating or better for their products are automatically eligible to apply for membership of the Energy Saving Trust Recommended (ESTR) scheme.

Licensees benefit from assessments that are carried out by BSI's own experienced personnel, without recourse to third-party contractors, and from easy access to the full range of additional services available from BSI, which make the organisation a convenient and cost-effective one-stop-shop for all standards and testing issues related to windows.

Kitemark licenses for the Windows Energy Rating scheme are awarded only after a detailed evaluation has been carried out by BSI's experienced inspectors. This includes checking and reviewing simulations, which must be provided by the system supplier or a BSI accredited simulator, and assessing the business operations of the company applying for the licence. The assessments are repeated at regular intervals to ensure that standards are being maintained. Licensees for the Kitemark Windows Energy Rating scheme, and for all other Kitemark schemes, are listed on the Kitemark.com website, which is widely used by consumers and specifiers seeking dependable suppliers.

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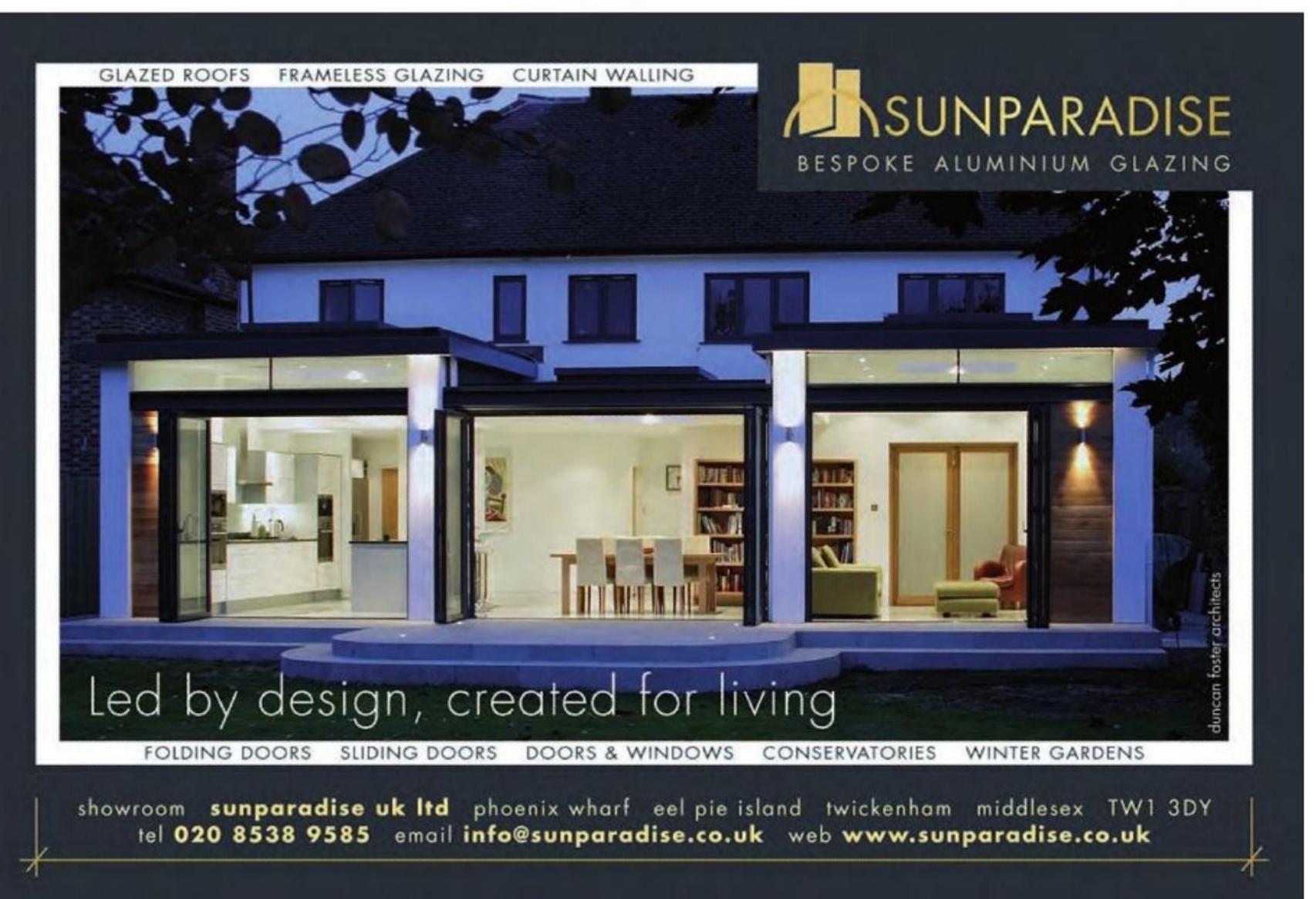
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> > Enquiry Nº 111

Enquiry Nº 110

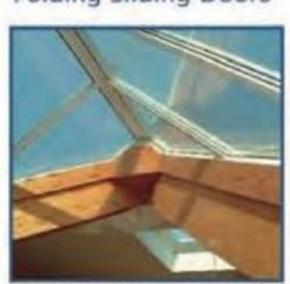


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# Defining the World Through Design 100% design

The 100% Design show is a must for self builders giving an insight into the future of interior design, showcasing a plethora of exciting ideas. This contemporary interior design exhibition, now in its sixteenth year, incorporates three shows in one; 100% Design, 100% Materials and 100% Futures.

00% Design London will be showcasing over 4,000 designs at the show. Future trends, design technology and innovation combine to make an exhilarating and unique destination for self builders, architects and interior design professionals. 100% Design London offers visitors an opportunity to explore and experience a huge range of furniture, accessories, lighting, textiles, kitchens, bathrooms and bedrooms first hand.

100% Design London will increase the number of international exhibitors at the show this year through individual and group representations from Austria, Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Norway, Spain.

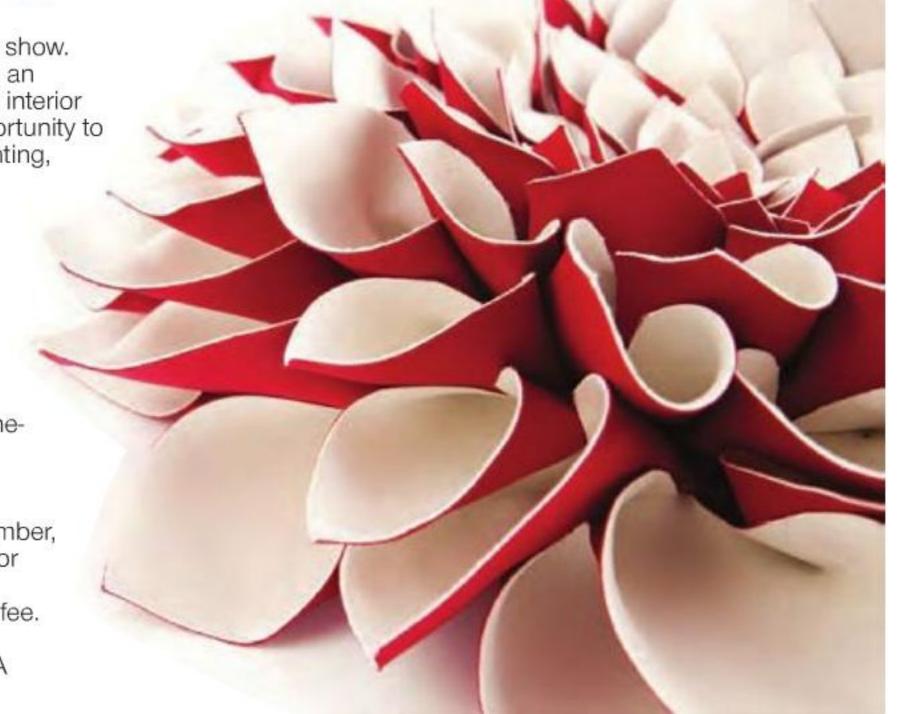
Committed to showing the very best in creative and commercial interiors, 100% Design London rigorously enforces the vetting process through the 100% Design Panel in order that only original designs are exhibited. With a roster of new and established talent from around the globe, and the Best of British, this is the only show of its kind offering a onestop shop for industry professionals and public alike.

**Admissions Policy 2010** 

100% Design London is open to the public only on Sunday 26th September, 2010. Tickets can be purchased online at www.100percentdesign.co.uk for

register on the door for £20. Children over 6 yrs will be charged £8 entry fee.

Venue: Earls Court Exhibiton Centre, Warwick Road, London, SW5 9TA





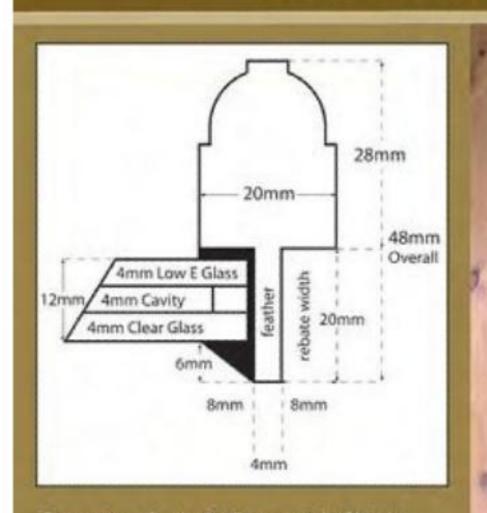


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#### **Garador Meets Timber Demand with 6 New Styles**

As demand for timber doors has increased, so has the range available from **Garador**, which has added no less than six new styles to its range; the Horizontal Cedar, Ashton, Ashton Chevron, Rochdale, Hinton and Sunrise. Simon Hipgrave, MD explained; "All timber doors from Garador are supported on our rigid galvanised steel chassis which is then powder coated, using the same



precision engineering methods of the Garador steel doors. These doors will last for years with the right care and attention along the way".

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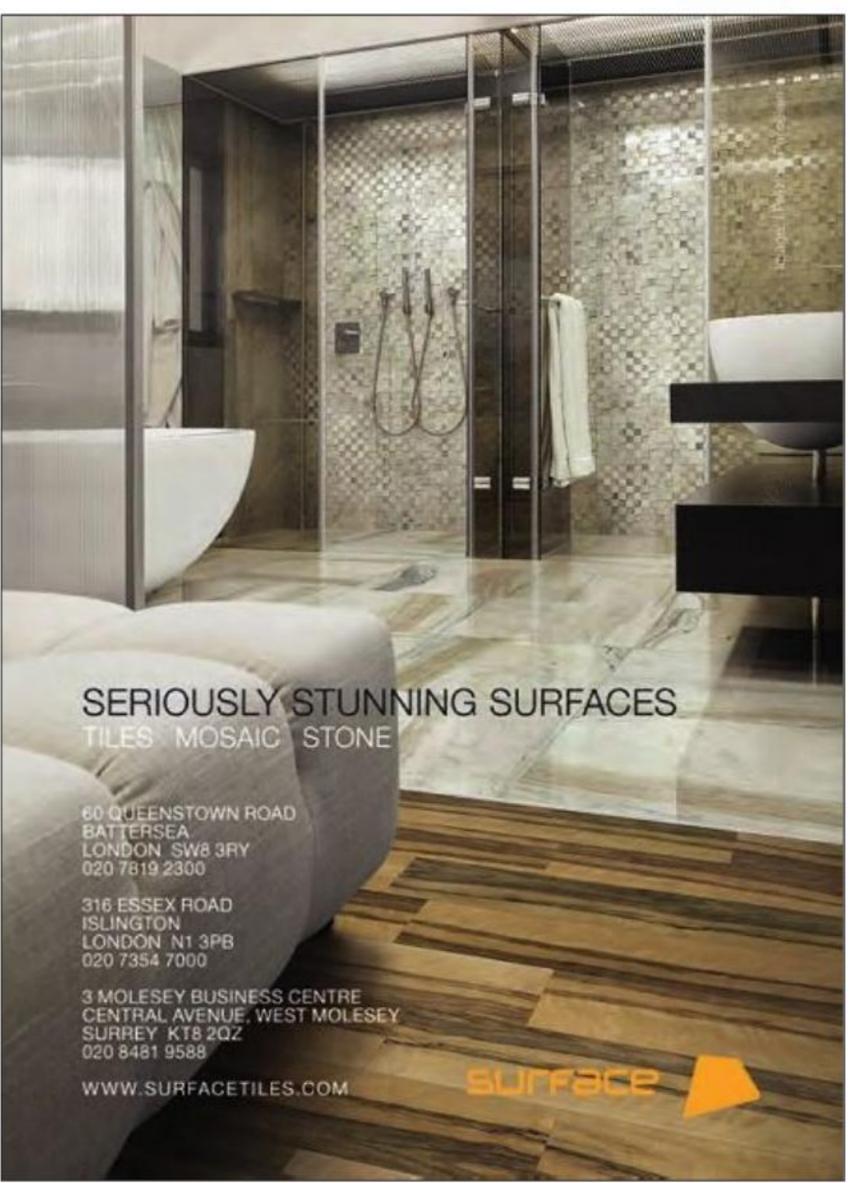
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on your annual fuel bills. Any electricity you don't use could be sold back to your energy supplier for an agreed tax-free, inflation linked price. ...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

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#### **Getting you from B to A**

**Grundfos Pumps** recently launched a fleet of taxis in London and Manchester. The vehicles, which are bright green and white, are being used as part of the "Ask for Alpha2" campaign. The aim of the taxi campaign is to promote green pump technology and make homeowners and professionals more aware. The Grundfos Alpha2, launched over 2 years ago, is energy A rated pump and is the only pump to have the unique function of AutoAdapt which not only makes the pump easier to install but also means that the pump will also run at optimum efficiency by automatically adjusting to meet demand. Look out for these taxis next time you are out and about in London or Manchester, and be sure to ask the driver if you would like to know more about the campaign.

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#### **JG Speedfit Launches Online UFH Referral** Guide

JG Speedfit has just launched a new underfloor heating website, www.speedfitufh.co.uk. The websites aim is to educate users about the benefits of underfloor heating, while removing the mystique, and perceived difficulty behind the specification and installation. The website makes installing underfloor heating as easy as possible. By simply answering a few questions about the installation the website will generate a free instant project estimate and an associated bill of materials needed to complete the job. These can then be taken to your preferred merchant.

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#### **Dream Holiday Funded By Savings in Heating Bills**

An Oxfordshire family has just come back from a dream holiday in Spain funded entirely out of savings in their heating costs thanks to a new system which uses renewable energy from the outdoor air to slash fuel bills. The system - called an Ecodan® air source heat pump from Mitsubishi Electric - has dramatically lowered the costs to heat the 3-bedroomed home near Chipping Norton and



enabled the Pearce family to not only pay for their holiday but also repay all outstanding bills with their electricity supplier.

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131 Enquiry N

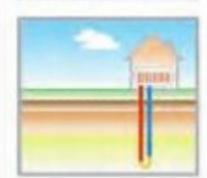
#### 90% Heat Recovery Efficiency with New Q-Vent

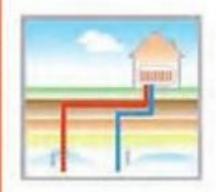


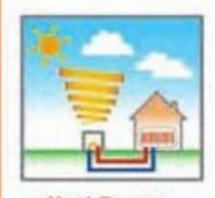
Johnson & Starley has introduced a new high efficiency heat recovery ventilation unit for domestic applications which is SAP Appendix Q listed. It is rated at up to 90% efficient in heat recovery. The Q-Vent HR 160 meets the demands of housing developers and specifiers for very high efficiency heat recovery and this has been achieved with the inclusion of a counterflow heat exchanger. An installer's commissioning panel allows infinitely variable air extract rates to be set accurately to give close control of air supply and extraction rates on both normal and boost settings.

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- Heat Pumps Ground Arrays
- Heat Systems Solar Thermal



## Making the most of renewable energy

Water & Energy Field Services Ltd are specialist ground and air source heat pump installers, delivering low carbon solutions for heating & hot water across the UK.

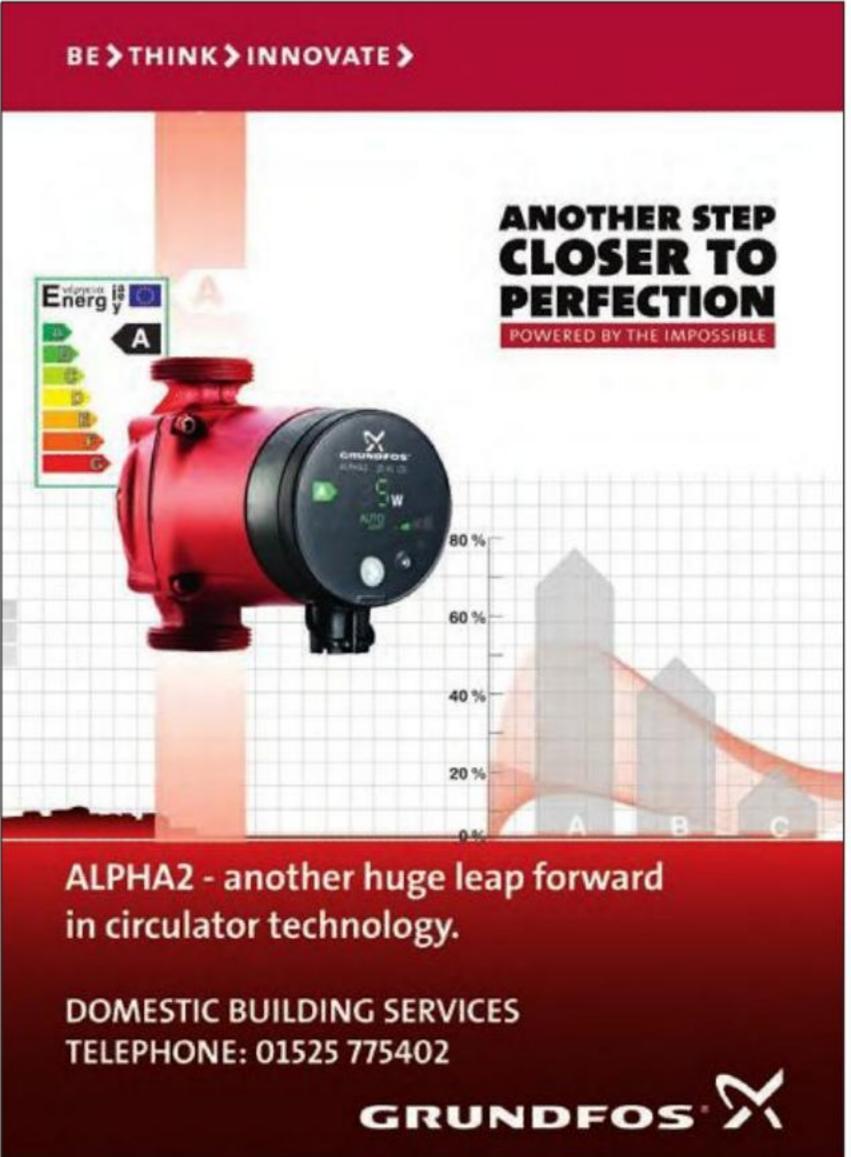
With a unique understanding of the subsurface, we take projects through design, installation and commissioning, selecting the best and most suitable products; using quality materials; and working to high standards of design, installation and project management.

For more information please visit our website at www.waterandenergy.co.uk or call 01332 871880 and speak to one of our chartered geologists or engineers.



Cedars Farm Barn, Market Street, Draycott, Derbyshire DE72 3NB t 01332 871880 www.waterandenergy.co.uk

Enquiry Nº 133





Enquiry Nº 134

Enquiry N° 135

**How to Enquire:** 



## Editor's Focus



#### **Nautilus Pools**

Nautilus Pools Ltd is the sole UK distributor for the Waterair range of in-ground pools. Waterair have been established for 38 years and have sold over 70,000 pools worldwide. Manufactured in modular form, these pools are very quick to install, very affordable and easy to maintain. Available in 11 shapes, 66 sizes and over 200,000 variants, there is a pool to suit every location and budget. Complete with a guarantee for 20 years.



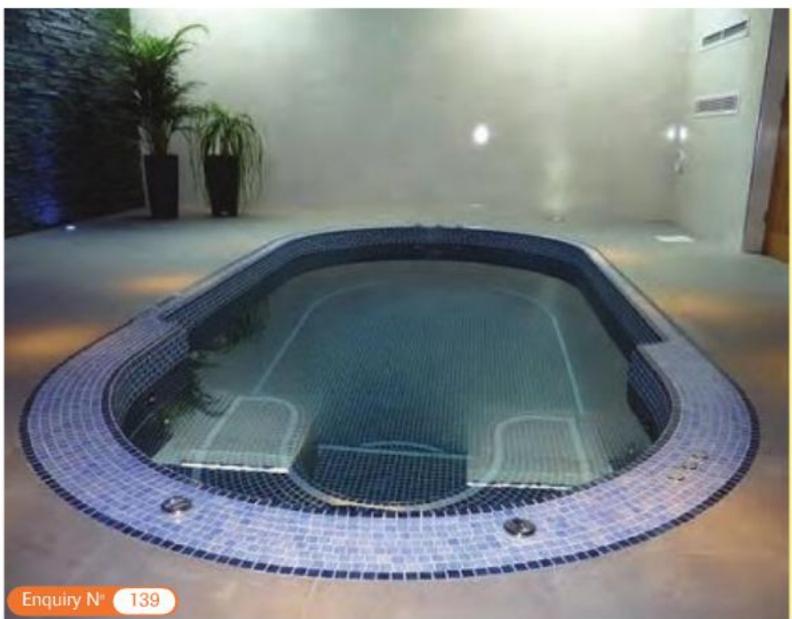
#### Water & Energy Field Services

Poor initial design and installation practices result in poor system performance and disappointment as well as costly remedial work. Utilise the services of Water & Energy Field Services - premier installers using chartered geologists and engineers to ensure the right design combined with the right equipment to deliver sustainable and efficient solutions. Undersized ground arrays and heat pumps result in system failure – get it right at the start.



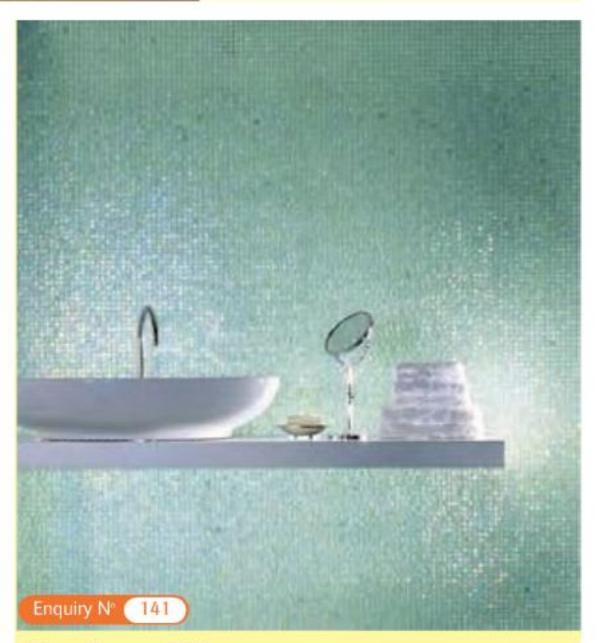
## Selfbuild & Contract Floors

Selfbuild & Contract Floors primarily lay flowing screed and underfloor heating for clients building their own homes. Formed by two friends with over 28 years of construction industry experience, we have a very strong focus on customer service and have built our business on individual recommendation. As a company we undertake a wide range of underfloor heating and screeding projects, large and small, from cellar conversions, refurbishments and extensions to entire houses and apartment blocks.



#### Whitewaters

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



**Surface Tiles** Surface Tiles introduces the Value range, a comprehensive offering with something to suit a wide range of projects. Choose from minimal black or white porcelain tiles in natural or polished finish, plus neutral shades of grey, beige and taupe. All are available in large format sizes for up-to-the-minute looks and with rectified edges for a prestigious, clean-cut finish. For natural, timeless interiors there are inspiring engineered stone options - warm stone with subtle veining, limestone, pale creamy stone and concrete inspired greys. Outdoor spaces are also catered for with a contemporary, light grey, stone-effect tile that is perfect for patios and terraces. The range even includes an affordable recycled glass mosaic from SICIS. With a price tag of less than £40 per SQM (incl VAT) for the porcelain and just over £100 SQM for the mosaic, the new Value range has been selected to have the broadest possible appeal in terms of quality, design and price.

## ST. IVES BAY HOMES

#### St. Ives Bay Homes

At St Ives Bay Homes we manufacture all our own Timber frames and Log structures ourselves. This allows us to fully control the manufacturing stage, for which we take full responsibility.

Above all it allows us to cut out the middleman meaning that you pay less.

We buy our SIP structures from a company who has over 10 years of experience in designing and manufacturing SIP panels.

We specialize in turnkey projects so all you have to do is move into a fully finished house.

At St. Ives Bay Homes we offer a complete service to clients from all over the UK.

# foundations to self builder & HOMEMAKER June/July 2010 Supplement



## **ROUND WOOD**

of Mayfield

#### OAK FRAMED BUILDINGS



Garage Frames from £2395 + vat.

Nationwide delivery & installation available.

Ask about our planning service.

#### HOME & GARDEN FEATURES



Pictured: Cast Iron Roman Lady Bust £63
Other products include: Eco-Friendly Fibreclay Planters £10
Venetian Urns £47.50 • Oak Barrels/Water Butts £65

#### HARDWOOD DECKING PRODUCTS



Pictured: 145mm x 21mm Balau Decking £33.50/m2 Other products include (exc vat): Oak Decking £33.95/m2 Ipe Decking £38.50/m2 • Cedar Decking £48/m2

#### www.roundwood.com

Tel: 01435 867 072

Round Wood | Newick Lane | Mayfield | East Sussex | TN20 6RG

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Whatever type of home you're building, we've got it covered!

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Self-Build Zone is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sennocke International Insurance Services Limited who is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority

Enquiry N° 301



## Foundations to Finishes Supplement



With extensions and renovations the focus of attention for many, it's important to consider the implications of insurance as surprisingly, these types of projects are quite complex. Most home insurance policies exclude cover whilst the property is undergoing alteration or renovation and don't cover unoccupied properties beyond 60 days - on that basis you soon see that traditional home insurance is of little use when you are extending or renovating. Builders or tradesmen carrying Public liability are only responsible for negligence (which you would have to prove) so works in progress, plant, equipment or materials that are your responsibility are unlikely to be covered. Site Insurance, which protects the house and extension or renovation works, plant and equipment on an All Risks basis including Public Liability and Employers Liability, is specifically designed to provide the cover you need. Whether you are building or renovating for your own use or to market cover is available from Self-Build Zone.

SureSet UK Ltd has introduced an exciting new product to their permeable resin bound paving range, the new PermaSlab.

The PermaSlab is a fully permeable paving slab that can be used for many different applications including, but not limited to, pathways, patios and pond surrounds. The PermaSlab has been developed using the well proven SureSet resin bound paving technology which imparts both a high degree of permeability together with durability, colour retention and total frost resistance.

Tests show that the PermaSlab can maintain a water flow rate of at least 50 litres/m²/second, providing they have been laid over a permeable open graded, fines free crushed stone sub-base that has been designed to carry surface water into the substrate.





DIY Kits &

PermaSlabs

Available

'You will pay for a ground investigation whether you have one or not". This is the start of an old saying about ground investigations. The full saying concludes "...but if you do not have it done before you start it will cost you more". In the 20+ years of investigating ground conditions for houses, we at Mini Soil Surveys have found that approx 25% of sites prove to be of low risk of problems and standard footings can be planned, 50% will involve manageable additional cost and about 25% will involve considerable extras such as piling, or much deeper dig, ground water pumping, or the ground is contaminated and the finances of the whole project are severely threatened. Remember that your builder will have a clause somewhere in the contract that says that you not he will pay. He therefore has no incentive to pay for a ground investigation. If you pay for one you can use it to obtain the best price for your foundations.



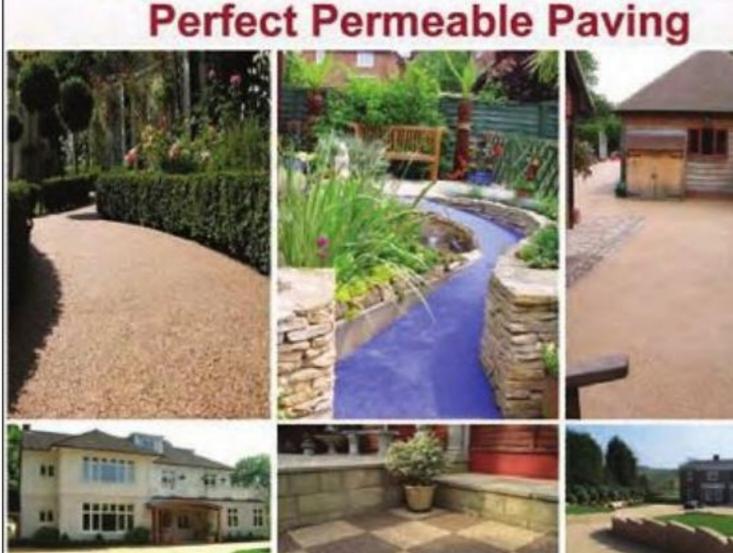
Westwind Oak Buildings Ltd

specialise in the design and construction of beautiful, bespoke oak framed buildings. Whether contemporary or traditional, our frames are unique and designed to our clients' exact specifications. Our team of highly skilled craftsmen ensure a high level of service at all times. Over the last 20 years we have raised oak frames throughout the UK, including the Channel Islands, and Europe. Green Oak timber framing has been part of our building heritage for centuries, and oak framing today continues the same traditional techniques, combined with modern design and construction methods to create stunning oak houses. An oak framed house, if looked after properly, can last many hundreds of years, far longer than the time taken to grow the trees used in it. This makes oak an ideal material for sustainable housing In fact locally sourced green oak has the lowest embodied energy of any primary building material.



# SureSet"

Resin Bound Paving



For an attractive and extremely durable alternative to block paving and pattern imprinted concrete, use SureSet™ permeable resin bound paving. Ideal for use on driveways, pathways and patios.

Choose from natural gravel, crushed rock, recycled glass and marble, in a wide variety of colours and textures.

SureSet permeable resin bound paving is covered by a 10 year guarantee.

Tel:01985 841180 mail@sureset.co.uk www.sureset.co.uk

Online at www.sbhonline.eu

#### MINI . SOIL . SURVEYS



MINI SOIL SURVEYS was established in 1987 to enable cost effective ground investigations to be made for housing projects.

The system was originally invented to look into the causes of subsidence but it soon became apparent to local authorities and other approving bodies such as NHBC, that subsidence problems could be eliminated if the ground was properly investigated before construction started. They now insist on such information.

A MINI SOIL SURVEY investigation is only a small fraction of the total cost of a new house but it should eliminate the risk of failure and enable foundation design and costs to be established before work starts.

MINI SOIL SURVEYS The national mini-borehole specialists

"Foundation design based upon ground information should be the first thing to consider, not the last"

For assistance, advice, free quotations and details of an office near to you ring 0161 980 0044 or e-mail your questions to info@minisoils.co.uk.

Enquiry Nº 304

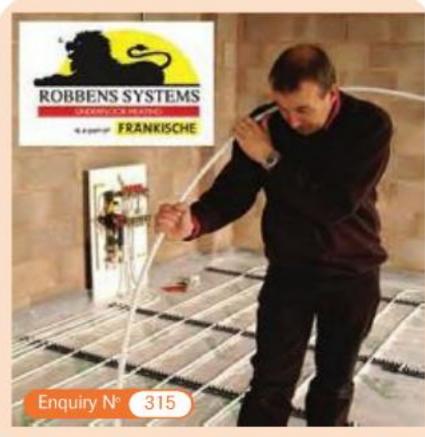
17







## **Foundations to Finishes Supplement**



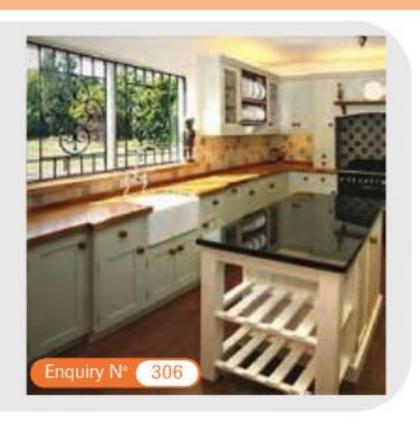
Robbens Systems have been at the forefront of the UK underfloor heating market for more than 15 years, developing state of the art design methods and products to add to their high levels of function and reliability. Robbens offers water based underfloor heating systems for all floor construction methods and floor finishes - including solid and timber. Through supplying thousands of domestic and commercial projects, Robbens have gained an intimate knowledge of building methods and the information/service needs of clients, matching their services to these specific needs. Through excellent products, high levels of customer service and responsible trading, Robbens have continued to delight their customers. Proven technology together with highly qualified staff and top quality service will make your project now and in the future a resounding success.

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.





FEIN is adding additional accessories to the MultiMaster Top and Select sets. FEIN's powerful German-made oscillators and range of accessories have been continuously further developed and extended in close contact with users for more than 40 years. With the new FEIN MultiMaster Plus sets customers will benefit from an even wider range of applications with even better value for money. The FEIN MultiMaster Top Plus set includes the recently unveiled round and patented backing pad. The FEIN MultiMaster TOP PLUS offers an extensive range of accessories with more than 50 items and a wide range of applications. The set has now been extended further with a particular focus on sanding applications. The round backing pad with a diameter of 115 mm combines the sanding of medium-sized surfaces and effective material removal. It sands accurately without kick-back, produces minimal vibration levels and can replace a random sander.

Powerguard manufacture off-grid systems providing power 24/7 for domestic, business and temporary applications. They are for the supply of electricity only or are full CHP (combined heat and power) systems providing electricity, hot water for washing and hot water for space heating. The electricity only system is already very efficient. If the CHP option is included the efficiency is taken to another level cutting costs and reducing pollution. The heat is a by-product of producing electricity and is already paid for. The systems are usually installed into space made available by the customer such as an outbuilding, garage or plant room. The complete systems are now available in standard ISO containers for a very cost effective and easy to install permanent or temporary solution. The picture shows a standard 10ft container containing a system providing 12kVA or 18kVA of electricity and up to 22kW or 32kW of heat respectively.





# **P**<sup>4</sup>**NELAND FURNITURE LTD - 01299 271143**



- 100% solid wood kitchens no MDF, chipboard or ply
- Dovetail jointed drawers mortise and tenon joints for carcases
- Free design service, individual, hand drawn plans
- Non-standard sizes, at no extra cost, to suit your kitchens dimensions
- Fully assembled units; no annoying flat-pack assembly
- Straightforward, easy to understand costing prices include VAT & delivery



PANELAND is a privately owned, family company that has been established for over 20 years. We believe in listening to our clients, and our hand drawn plans, reflect our customers desires and opinions. The final design combines well planned functionality, with elegance and beauty, and our clients are often surprised how all this can be achieved at such a reasonable cost.

Visit our website: www.pineland.co.uk Email: sales@pineland.co.uk CLEOBURY MORTIMER, SHROPSHIRE: 01299 271143 Or call our offices: **NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE:** 01606 41292

Enquiry N° (305)







#### **Kytun Increases UK Presence**

Kytun, the manufacturer of aluminium and PVC dry verge systems and flashings for slate and tiled roofs, are delighted to announce the opening of their first UK distribution centre based in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

The latest development follows increased sales in the UK and is seen as an important part in the supply chain to the company's increasing number of stockists and business partners.

The patented Kytun linear dry verge systems prevent wind uplift to slate and tiled roofs whilst negating the need for time consuming wet mortar fixing.

...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

Tel: 00353 749139500 www.kytun.com





#### **Incredible Offer from Marshall Tools**

Build it with one of the world's best selling single brand hand tools.

Over 14 million people are already using the incredible simple / effective bricky. Incredible limited time offer from Marshall Tools: Retail Price £49.95, Now £29.95. Save £20 and get the following 4 tools worth £45 FREE

- DVD: How to Build your own house.
- Trowel: Marshall with soft grip handle.
- Mason's Mate: Secure your line with speed and ease.
- Pro Pointer: Multi dimensional pointing tool.

All for just £29.95. Next day Delivery

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Tel: 0870 067 0460 24 www.bricky.com

#### The Alternative to Resin Bound Paving

StableDRIVE is the naturally permeable and SUDs friendly alternative to resin bound paving. StableDRIVE gravel stabilisation panels provide a secure gravel containment and reinforcement system, designed to cope with vehicular traffic, up to and including commercial, utility and emergency traffic. The system is ideal for car parking, access roads, hard standings, laybyes, caravan sites and even helicopter landing pads. The system



will prevent gravel migration and rutting or spreading. ...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

Tel: 01932 862473 www.stabledrive.co.uk

Enquiry N° 309

#### **Cost-Effective Soakaway System**



Self-contained and easy to install, the new ACO SoakAway™ range offers the first complete, sustainable solution for managing surface water run-off from residential roofs, driveways or any domestic hard landscaped area. With Building Regulations set to become more restrictive regarding the use of sewers to remove run-off, the kits are the ideal way to avoid

the cost and delay of having to apply for planning permission. There are three kits in the ACO SoakAway™ range: the ACO SoakAway Channel Kit, the ACO SoakAway and the ACO Soakaway Extension.

...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

Tel: 01462 816666 www.aco.co.uk

Enquiry N° 310











#### DO YOU LIVE OR PLAN TO BUILD OFF-GRID AND NEED AN AUTOMATIC SYSTEM PROVIDING ELECTRICITY 24/7?

The Powerguard PS System operates with any auto-start generator providing electricity 24/7 in a controlled and very efficient way. Typically the generator runs less than 8 hours per day increasing generator life by 300% and reducing fuel use and maintenance by 65%. The battery and inverter supply the power when the generator is not

running.

The PS System will accept and monitor input from renewable energy sources such as wind and solar.

CHP (Combined Heat & Power) versions for the lowest running cost.

The PS Systems provide the most cost effective and practical solutions for offgrid applications. The PS System saves fuel and reduces pollution.

The PS System is fully automatic, fully integrated,

very efficient and very reliable.

powerguard



PS SYSTEM INSTALLATION

Call: 01507 600 688 sales@powerguard.co.uk www.psw-powerguard.com

#### **Icynene Insulates New Wing of Manse Nursing Home**



Icynene distributor Airseal Insulation has successfully insulated the new 12 en-suite bed and communal area of The Manse nursing home in Lancashire. "Installing Icynene insulation has resulted in substantially lower fuel bills," said Les Ansell owner of The Manse. "The boiler size was designed for a

conventional construction at 165,000btu. Yet using Icynene to seal up the external timber frame envelope we now operate with a 100,000 btu boiler, similar to that in a three bed house. The new build is 23% by volume of the total building size, yet it accounts for only 7.3% of the total gas used."

...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

Tel: 0151 944 2036 www.airsealinsulation.co.uk

Enquiry N° 313

#### **Industry Experts Vote for GTEC Aqua Board**

#### Lafarge Plasterboard's

GTEC Aqua Board has been voted most innovative product in a Dragon's Den-inspired contest. 'Lions Lair' was held at the easyFairs Interior Fit-Out at London's ExCel on 5 & 6 May 2010. GTEC Aqua Board is the UK's first gypsum based board for use in high humidity and wet areas for

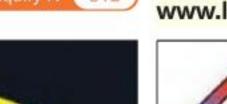


both internal and external applications. The product impressed the judges and the audience with its significant benefits over traditional cement particle boards. In addition to enhanced moisture resistance, it is up to 30% lighter than cement particle boards.

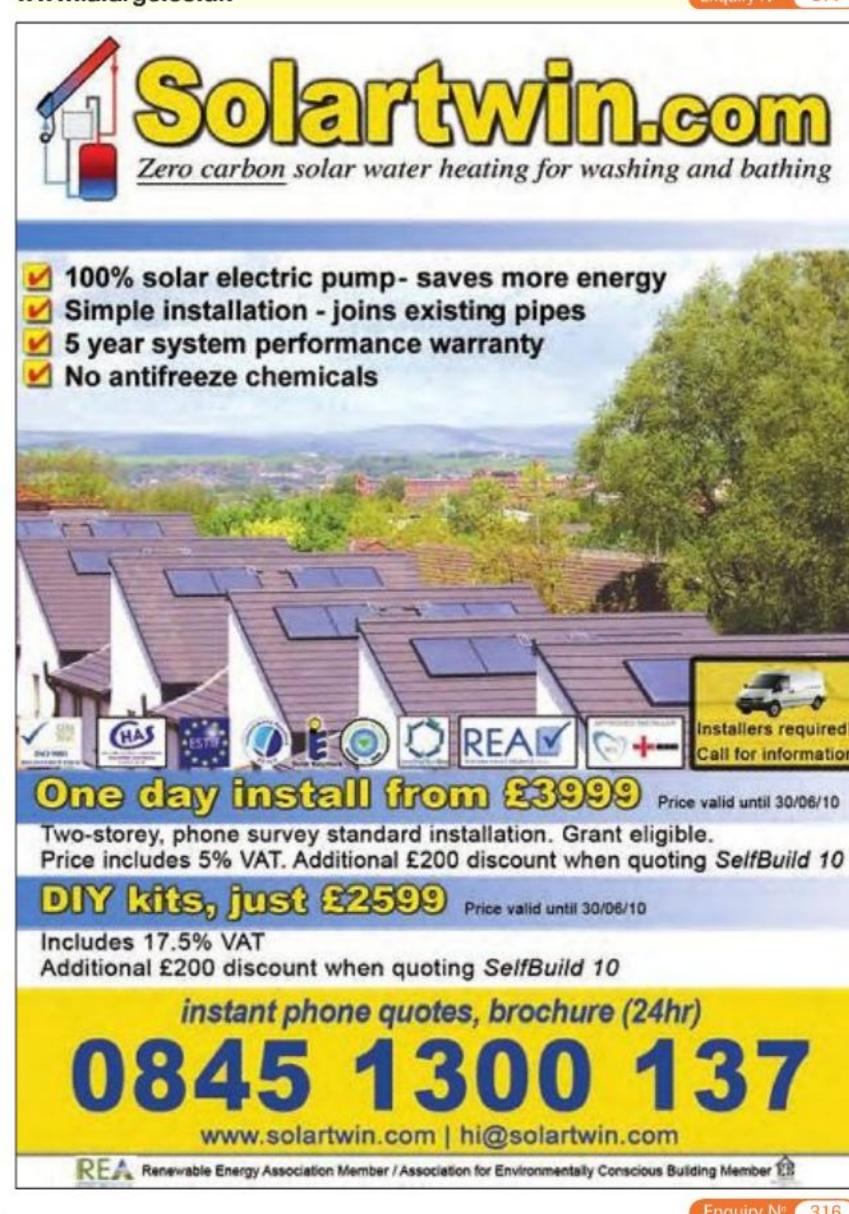
...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

Tel: 01275 377466 www.lafarge.co.uk

Enquiry N° 314

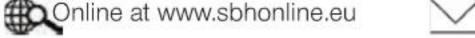


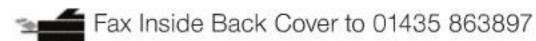


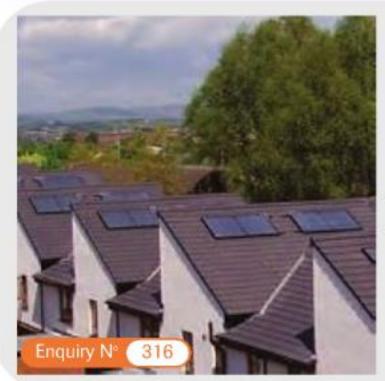


Enquiry N° (315)









Solar Twin Ltd is a UK company that manufactures and supplies innovative, patented, zero carbon, solar water heating systems. Grid tied PV systems are also available. Our pump and solar controller are powered by a small photovoltaic (solar electric) panel, which eliminates all parasitic mains electrical loads. In this system, the hot water is stratified in the cylinder, keeping the hottest water where needed, at the top. The panel is very quick to install, usually taking less than a day, due to its simplicity. Another significant advantage is that all the pipework is silicone based, meaning the panel is can freeze safely. Therefore, no glycol or drain-down is needed, maintenance is minimal and customer satisfaction is excellent. Our solar thermal panels are Solar Keymarked, and are hence approved products, and we are MCS approved installers. Solar Twin retails both DIY products, and fully installed systems.

Heatandplumb.com offers a new range of imaginatively designed radiators that are available in 200 different standard colours, so there should be a design and colour to match whatever interior colour scheme is chosen, at no extra cost. The Belgorad Designer Radiator range and accessories are the ultimate in chic and will add a welcome focal point to any room as well as delivering efficient functionality. Belgorad believe that when you buy a designer radiator, you should not have to choose the obligatory white? Furthermore - why should you pay a premium for a "non-standard" colour? For the same money, choose a colour you really like. When you choose from our popular range of designer radiators make your radiator fit your home in the colour of your choice! This offer is unique. No other radiator is available in as many colours as a Belgorad designer radiator. Belgorad Radiators can be described as 'Designer radiators with a warm heart'.

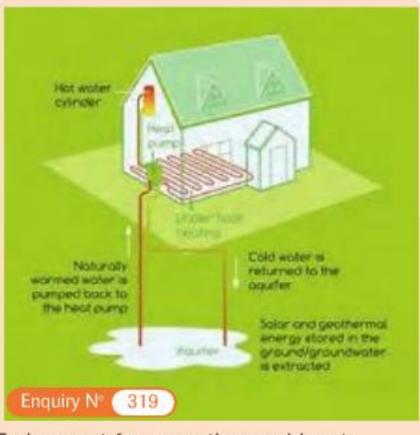




Discounted Heating Supplies in the renewable energy market. You may not have considered installing renewable energy in your home before. Or you may have thought about it, but decided it was just too expensive... or too difficult! Things have changed the Government's new renewable electricity and heat tariffs will pay back the cost of your investment. Renewables covers a very broad range of energy production technologies that are suitable for homes and businesses these can be grouped into three main categories:

- Some generate electricity
- Some produce heat, and
- · Combined heat and power does both

Along with the more standard products Discounted Heating Supplies provide the latest cost saving technologies such as Air Source Heat Pumps and AuroTHERM Solar Sets from leading suppliers.



To harvest free geothermal heat available from depths below 15m a heatpump is employed to raise the temperature of the heat and deliver it into the building.

To achieve this we abstract groundwater at 10/14°C, and we install underfloor heating which is more efficient than radiators, and which heats the building using water at temperatures of 30°C.

This means 6 kilowatts of heat is delivered at the required temperature by a heatpump using 1 kilowatt of electricity.

At Earthtest Energy we ensure the system is correctly integrated into the buildings design and construction and that interfaces with other systems are properly managed.

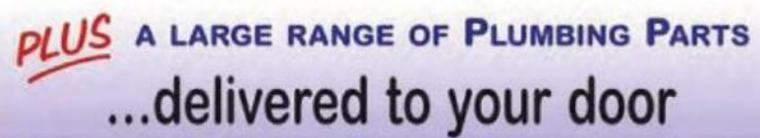
Correctly installed a geothermal heatpump and underfloor heating system requires no maintenance and lasts the life of the building.

# heatandplumb



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         DISABILITY
         BATHROOMS











www.heatandplumb.com or call 01208 812587



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We stock Bathroom, Plumbing and Heating products from some of the leading manufacturers.

All products are sold with a manufacturer's guarantee. We aim to be extremely competitive with unbeatable special offers on certain items.







## www.DiscountedHeating.co.uk





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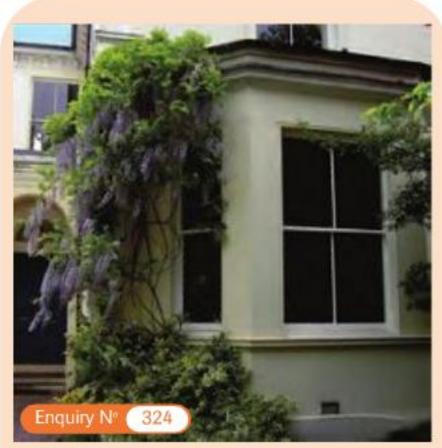








## **Foundations to Finishes Supplement**



The Alpha Sash Window Company has been established for over 15 years in Rugby, Warwickshire. The Company specialises in the renovation and manufacture of traditional wooden sash windows. Alpha Sash also develops and manufactures its own draught proofing system. This is available as a DIY kit and is identical to the system used in its own replacement windows. Alpha Sash is dedicated to providing a top quality service. Keith Enticott, the owner, has a friendly, yet highly professional approach and is always available to give advice and chat about your projects. The Company has worked on many windows in the local historical towns of Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwick and Leamington Spa where it renovated the windows at the famous Pump Rooms. Alpha Sash mainly operates within 50 miles of Rugby, but will supply its DIY Draught Proofing Kits and Replacement Windows anywhere in the UK - along with ample telephone advice.

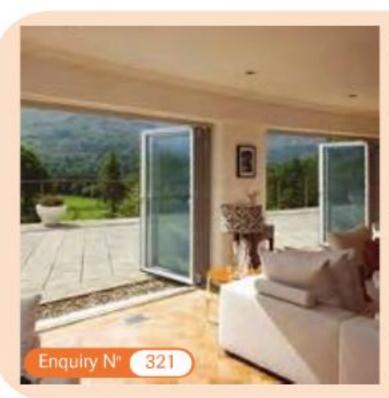
Express are a specialist manufacturer of bespoke aluminium bi folding doors, twin and triple sliding doors, windows and roofing systems.

With a state of the art product portfolio featured on Channel 4's 'The Home Show' and on 'Grand Designs', Express are transforming homes throughout the UK.

All of the companies products are of European design but manufactured in a purpose built facility in Leeds, this UK manufacturing base ensures that all of the leading products can be manufactured, supplied or installed within weeks, not months.

Servicing the entire UK offering an express supply only service or offering their specialsist in house installation and building division Express Bi Folding Doors need be your only port of call for making your dream home a reality.



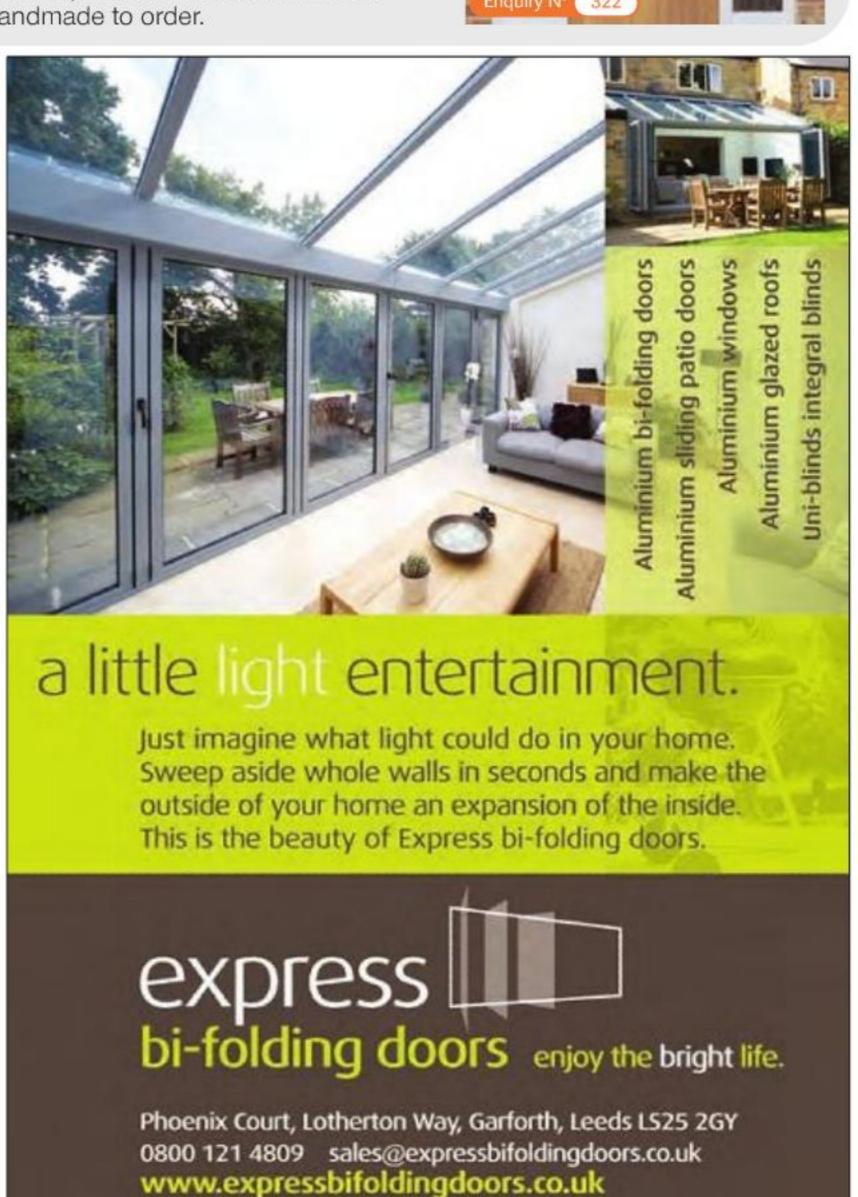


Achieving a better U with Sunfold - In today's world ecology and energy saving are key elements that have to be considered with any building project. This is reflected in the 2010 changes to Part L that asks for 25% improvement on efficiency over dwellings in 2006. Choosing the correct glazing product is therefore of particular importance to ensure you get the best performance possible. Sunfold systems aluminium and timber folding sliding doors are not only famed for their superior quality, specialised design, and high performance, they also achieve U-values that exceed any requirements requested under Part L. For projects that require a bit of an improvement the system can be upgraded so Sunfold can reach U-values of 1.3-1.4 W/m2K even in aluminium. Then for projects that need extra thermal efficiency using high performance 3G glass units a Sunfold System can reach and even exceed U-values of 1.1 W/m2K.

At Old Time Timber we've been carefully selecting timber and preparing hand finished doors, floors and other timber products for many years. Like all natural products, every piece of timber has its own individual characteristics, and it is our careful selection of the timber that we use that makes our products unique. Our range of designs has been inspired both by traditional models, and also by modern styles, and are all manufactured according to traditional joinery methods and techniques. Over the years we've come to understand the importance of being able to offer expert and sensitive advice as well as making items to the highest quality on which our reputation has been built. We use a variety of different timbers, English Hardwoods - Oak, Elm, Ash & Beech, and also a considerable amount of reclaimed timber -Reclaimed Pine, Reclaimed Pitch Pine, and some Reclaimed Oak. All our doors are individually handmade to order.







Enquiry N° 319



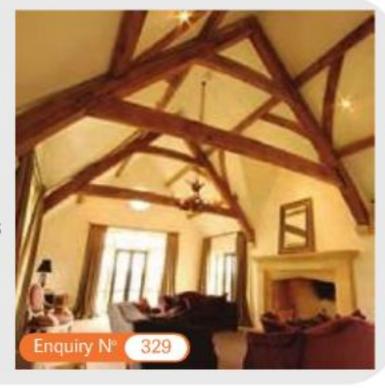
Blue Oak, based in Brighton, East Sussex, are comfortable with their current level of sales, reports MD Tim Regan, given the unprecedented global economic situation. Recommendations from existing customers probably make up 25% of the present order book. Recent projects include the installation of their Oak Storm window and door system in an exposed cliff top location, overlooking the English Channel, in Fairlight, Hastings. The timber framed property was built by Jim Soan and Sons Ltd of Grand Designs fame. Five sets of bi fold doors were used and the Blue Oak storm system was favoured because it is one of few storm section bi fold doors on the market. The Blue Oak range of products, including tilt and turn windows, have been supplied to 20 self build projects this year. Tim Says "we've taken the best aspects of European window design and use them in our outward opening storm window system, which seems to be proving popular".





To celebrate their 75th Anniversary Hörmann has created a range of specially priced doors and operators that offer savings of up to 35% when compared with similar Hörmann products. Hörmann has been able to maintain their philosophy of "Quality without Compromise" by ensuring the efficiency of their operations is second to none. By producing the anniversary range in the most popular sizes, the economies of scale have allowed the company to add these, even higher value, products to their range for the anniversary year. Pictured, in Titan Metallic, are two of the new products, the RenoMatic 75 and RenoDoor 75, a combination of garage door with operator and a matching entrance door. Thermally efficient, weather sealed, high quality and stylish the combination make a design feature of he garage and external door. For the chance to win one of 75 anniversary garage doors contact your garage door specialist or Hörmann direct.

Oak has been relied upon as a robust building material for many centuries and has always been valued for its architectural magnificence. Today, using a combination of the tradition of the past with cutting edge modern methods and materials, we are able to complement modern architecture with such structures. The incorporation of a full or partially vaulted Oak ceiling can be an enormous benefit to the value of a property, maximising the available area so that the proportions of the building appear dramatic and enlarged. Oakmasters can supply and install King Post, Queen Post and Raised Collar or medieval style trusses as preconstructed triangular components, ready to be lifted into place on site. We can provide design consultancy services and advise on the appropriate location of trusses, section sizes, stylistics and layout. We can also produce a free CAD section drawing to show the trusses and their relationship to other components.





At Old Manor Cottages we have designed our windows and doors to replicate those that have been in use for centuries.

We aim to provide our customers with precisely matching period windows, yet having the benefit of modern features and comfort.

All windows are hardwood timber construction to period designs in use from around 1750 through to the early 20th century. Narrow 19/20mm glazing bars are used throughout matching the Georgian/Victorian periods with through glazing bars & double glazed panes.

The Box sash range uses traditional lead balance weights and all the expected period features. Casement windows are styled using traditional profiles and flush face sashes with discrete modern features for storm protection.



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

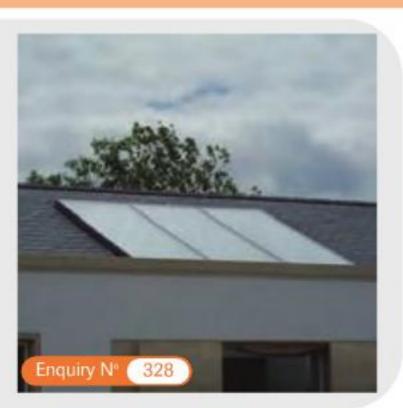
Enquiry No 321

## **Foundations to Finishes Supplement**



The Environmental Permitting Programme requires sewage treatment plants (for up to 50 persons) are certified and fully type tested under the British Standard EN12566-3, and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's maintenance instructions. By choosing a plant from the WPL Diamond range self-builders, developers, specifiers and homeowners are assured their wastewater treatment solution meets all current regulations. The Diamond is also fully compliant with UK Building Regulations and standard Environment Agency and SEPA specifications therefore keeping it in line with the new legislation recently introduced. WPL also has a nationwide service team comprising engineers who have all been awarded the 'Qualified Service Engineer' accreditation under the British Water scheme, in co-operation with the Environment Agency (EA), for maintaining small sewage treatment plants up to 50pe.

PhotoVoltaic or PV cells have been installed in many glass roofs all over the world in the last few years as a way of harnessing natural daylight and turning it into electrical renewable power. In the residential market, however, these products have had to be specifically commissioned and designed. Whilst already having a successful history of designing bespoke PV products, Glazing Vision (GV) set out to solve this problem of standard sizing, culminating in a nationwide and European research and development programme. Both engaging with its existing loyal customers and actively wanting to produce environmentally beneficial products, GV was able to respond to market forces resulting in unique manufacturing methods and testing processes at their UK factories which have revolutionized the glass rooflight category. The GV PhotoVoltaic rooflights can also now be modular and multiple units can be added together.





JFC have been appointed sole UK distributor for Graf Waste Water Treatment Plants.

Graf plants have surpassed EN 12566.1-3 water discharge quality 20 30 20 with a final discharge of 15 23 2.1.

Graf tanks in most cases do not require any concrete during installation which saves the end user many hundreds of pounds against competitors units.

The Graf Picobell unit has 15 minute cycles on the blower saving some 50% on electricity costs again against other units, and Graf units have many useful benefits such as putting the unit on Holiday mode when you are away!

Biodigester 'T' range package sewage treatment plants are rapidly becoming the experts choice. Owners are impressed by the limited maintenance required, infrequent emptying intervals and the 'Odour Free' totally aerobic process. Biodigesters are in use at a number of prize winning 'Ecofriendly' houses. Biodigesters are also being exported to a number of different countries around the world with the ease of transport being a key feature in this success. The product has been tested in the USA to the most stringent 'Class A' approval. The Biodigester 'T' range has 7 models for 6-42 people or Population Equivalent (PE). Larger Biodigesters are available for as many as 500 people in a single four stage Submerged Aerated Filter tank up to 4M in diameter. All Biodigesters are suitable for variable loading. Full details of the Biodigester range may be obtained from the family owned business, backed by 40 years experience; Burnham Environmental Services Ltd.



## Old Time Timber

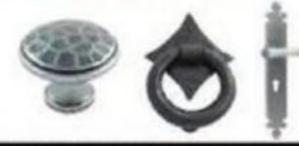
Traditional doors, flooring & bespoke joinery Full range of hand forged ironmongery











Visit our showroom in Chilton Street, Clare www.oldtimetimber.com Tel. 01787 277 390



#### **Light Filled Living with Solarlux**

Solarlux's contemporary Wintergarden structure, made from aluminium, can be added to any part of the house creating an exciting, light filled living area. A glass roof and thermally insulated folding glass doors allow the light to fill the room and the doors can be folded back to open up the room to the outside, eliminating the barriers between inside and out, creating a seamless transition between the house and the garden or patio and also the 'wow'factor. Solarlux Systems Ltd manufacture the wintergarden and doors which are thermally insulated and have multipoint locking systems providing high security and a choice of double or triple glazing, all designed to maintain heat inside the house in winter or reflect heat from the house keeping it cool in summer. The folding glass door systems are made from aluminium (to any RAL colour), wood/aluminium or a choice of triple laminated wood to ensure stability. The Solarlux product range covers folding glass doors, canopies, glass houses, horizontal sliding walls, wintergardens and balcony glazing. ...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

Tel: 01924 204444 www.solarlux.co.uk

Enquiry N° (322)



## Alpha Sash Window Company Ltd

Manufacturers of Quality Hardwood Replacement Sash Windows

Rugby-based Alpha Sash has been in the sash window business for 15 years. Fitted by its own craftsmen in the Midlands, but also supplied for third party fitting elsewhere

We take care to keep as close to traditional designs and profiles as we can and good matches to original windows can be achieved:

- Hardwood sashes and boxes
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- Most modern double glazed units can be accommodated, including slimline
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Manufacturers of traditional sash windows Grade I and II compliant

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01788 571800 sales@alphasash.co.uk





\* subject to proper maintenance

Enquiry N° 324





Blue Oak are bespoke manufacturers of contemporary and traditional European Oak windows and doors.



We use laminated/stabilised Oak from sustainable sources.



Bifold, French doors, casement and tilt/turn doors or windows can all be made using our 68mm slimline Euro profile storm section, which uses double weather gaskets and Roto perimeter locking as standard.



All units are factory finished using Remmers UV protective coatings.



We work closely with clients, architects and contractors to deliver a high quality, excellent value product throughout the UK.



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Email: enquiries@blueoakwindows.co.uk Web: www.blueoakwindows.co.uk

Enquiry N° 325



## 75 Years of Brand Quality: Benefit from Hörmann's Special Anniversary Offers



More security thanks to break-in-resistant WK2 equipment

Europe's no. 1 specialist is turning 75 and is offering attractive special anniversary prices, such as its entrance door TopSecur 75. In a break-in-resistant WK2 version and in 4 high-quality surfaces all at the same special anniversary price. Celebrate with us and save!

## HORMANN

Garage and Industrial Doors



- Recommended retail prices for the indicated door/side element sizes incl. 17.5% VAT, Valid for all participating dealers in the United Kingdom until 31.12.2010.
- \*\* In comparison with a TopPrestige entrance door 686 TP in WK2 version. End consumer price in the country incl. VAT without fitting.

Find even more anniversary offers at:

## www.hormann.co.uk

call 0800 0837216 - ref: SBH

Enquiry No. 326

25





Freepost Enquiry Card

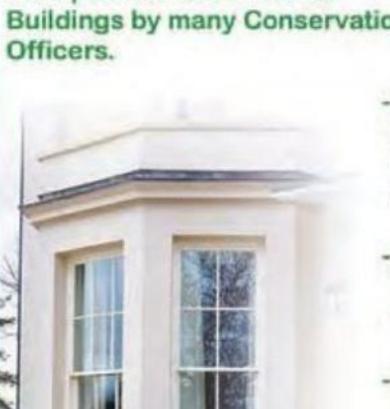


## **Old Manor Cottages**

**Double Glazed Timber** Windows & Doors for the Period look.

By combining tradition with modern techniques in a unique way double glazed windows can now be made to replicate the originals.

Accepted for use in Listed **Buildings by many Conservation** 



- Selected hardwoods used for all Box Sash, Casement Windows & Doors, with slim Ovolo glazing bars 19mm wide.
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Enquiry N° 327



Rectangular Flushglaze

Modular Flushglaze

www.glazingvision.co.uk

Enquiry Nº 328

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## ...Beautifully Finished

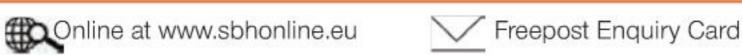






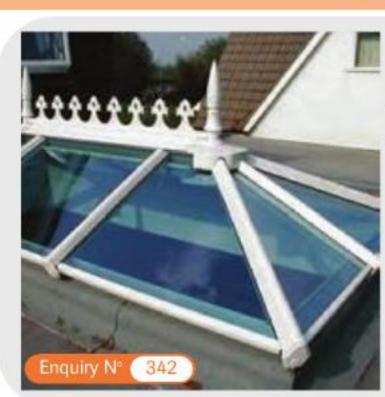








## **Foundations to Finishes Supplement**



Reflex Glass' high strength aluminium glass roof lanterns, skylights and rooflights are delivered flat packed in any size with clear or subtle blue tint Reflex+ super glass direct from our Leicester factory on our own transport. All our glass roof lanterns, skylights and rooflights are perfect to allow natural light to flood in to give wow factor to any flat roof or conservatory roof. extension! These high quality aluminium/upvc clad roof kits are flat packed for easy assembly and come with step by step instructions. The glass roof lanterns are supplied with either clear or subtle blue tint Reflex+ easy clean solar control low U-value glass. All our Glass Roof Lanterns, Skylights, Rooflights and conservatory roof packs include the following options: • Global roof system well engineered for high strength and security . Light weight structural aluminium design with toughened safety glass, • Reflex+ sealed units feature a 20 year unit seal failure guarantee.

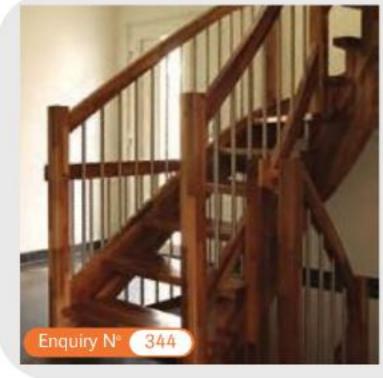
Rainwater Products offer Rainwater Storage and Harvesting Systems, designed to store and redistribute rainwater.

For those in low rainfall areas, with water restrictions in dry periods or for people who just want to save money off their water bill, this system is ideal.

The water stored is perfect for washing the car or watering the garden. Connected to a rainwater downpipe, the polyethylene storage tank can either be stored underground or above ground - ideal for use in a new build, renovation project or just upgrading your current rainwater system.

Available in various sizes from 115ltr to 3000ltrs, the tanks can also be slaved together to give you greater capacity. So why not give us a ring today to discuss your rainwater needs.





More than 80 years ago the Schön family founded a master joinery in Seck/Westerwald that continues today in its third generation as a company specialising in wooden staircases. State-of-the-art computer controlled machine lines aid in production of staircases for the European markets. The varied product range includes all styles and types of construction. We prefer to use European premium quality woods. Innovative ideas - from material combinations using glass and stainless steel to integrated lighting systems - leave nothing left to be desired. Today, discerning owners of new, converted or renovated buildings count among **German Stairs** satisfied customers; and naturally these staircases can also be found in leading quality prefabricated homes. The use of select woods, a precise custom fit, the highest quality in every detail and the finest of traditional craftsmanship produce staircases that are in demand all across Europe.



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

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

These highly efficient multi fuel smoke control stoves produce emissions so low they can be used for burning wood in smokeless zones. Remarkably easy to light and producing five times more heat from the same fuel as an open fire, they can burn for long periods unattended, and so efficiently that frequent cleaning is unnecessary.

They are a joy to use and it's is not unusual to hear from their many users, it's the best thing they ever bought for their home.



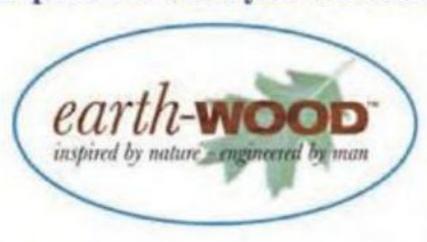
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For outstanding water quality chose Graf Picobell unit 15: 23: 2.1 Klaro unit 5: 6:11 surpasses present EN legislation of 20 30 20 meets EN 12566.1-3

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#### Nibe 2005 the Perfect **Solution for Perton** Cottage

Miss Christine Franklin lives at Perton Cottage, a pleasant three-bedroomed cottage that is nicely decorated and well insulated. However, \with the escalation in fuel costs and an aging and rather inefficient wet radiator system, the heating bills were over £5,000 a year. She called on Retherm, the Stoke-on-Trent based experts in renewable energy. Retherm produced a system based on airsourced energy channelled through a NIBE 2005 11kW

unit, with the gained heat stored and circulated through an ultra efficient VVM300 hot water tank and electric boiler.

...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

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







#### **View Spiral Cellars** through the Looking Glass

Spiral Cellars has launched a new Motorised Round Glass Trap Door as an additional option for the prestigious White Spiral Cellar. The glass trapdoor epitomises high end specification and allows specifiers to make a contemporary and striking architectural feature. "The Motorised Round Glass Trap Door is ideal for those who want to highlight the aesthetics of a Spiral Cellar by making the interior visible," explained Lucy Hargreaves, Director of Spiral Cellars. "With a chic white interior, LEDs and a range of materials available for step coverings - viewed through a glass trapdoor - the White Spiral Cellar creates a real WOW factor." All Spiral Cellar trapdoors can be positioned at any point on the centre line of the cellar to suit the room layout or the

... searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

Tel: 0845 241 2768 www.spiralcellars.com

easiest access point.

Enquiry No 333

#### **Polysure Makes Its Debut**

Polypipe has launched its latest range of plumbing fittings, Polysure, in response to the market's requirement for highly permanent and tamper-proof fix products. Polysure is an exciting new range of radial press fit fittings - the first on the UK market available in UK imperial sizes. Polysure fittings can be used with



either or both grey Polyplumb and white Polyfit polybutylene pipes, in residential applications. Plastics give a clear advantage over traditional materials when it comes to flexibility. The ability to bend and curve pipes in and around buildings and their structure means quicker, easier installation. ...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

Tel: 01709 770 000 www.polypipe.com

Enquiry N° 334

#### **Steico Launches Lime Render Wall System**



A new high performance insulated wall construction system, using lime based render applied directly to natural wood fibre insulation panels, has been launched by Steico Limited. Steicoprotect (BBA applied for) is targeted at the growing timber frame and refurbishment markets and is part of the company's focus on healthy insulation of the building fabric and regulating the internal climate. The system comprises a natural wood fibre panel of 40, 60 or 80mm thickness on to which a two coat lime render system embedded with reinforced mesh is directly applied to a thickness of 16mm. The system is designed to work with readily available render bead profiles and may be pre-colour impregnated or over painted with water based exterior paints.

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PLUS SERVICE & MAINTENANCE PACKAGES BY WPL's SERVICE TEAM For complete peace of mind (Now an E.A. statutory requirement that all types of plant are properly maintained)

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#### Classical & Exciting **Looks from ARC**

ARC Windows & Doors is a specialist fabricator of bespoke PVC-u windows and doors with over 25 years supplying to the trade.

They have recently opened a showroom where arched doors and circular windows are just some of the many designs on display.

You can also view a new range of doors and windows with curves fitted internally for classical and exciting looks as well as PVC-u bi-folding doors and a full range of standard windows & doors.

...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

Tel: 01617 620036 www.arcprofilebending.co.uk





#### **Lower Household Running Costs**

With green issues being the buzz word for new build housing electrical installations, the Domintell Home Automation Solution, from Minitran, could be part of the answer to lower household running costs. Heating and lighting can be accurately controlled by state of the art touch screen displays and intelligent pushbutton faceplates. These can be fitted in locations throughout the home, controlling all aspects of lighting, heating, or any connected devices. Any electrical device, which can be switched on or off, dimmed, or controlled, can be fitted to the Domintell system. The Domintell system also has a multi-room audio system that can be controlled via the screens or push buttons faceplates. Communication modules include GSM, RS232, IP, WEB for the linking of the Domintell solution to other systems.

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Tel: 01279 757775 www.minitran.co.uk

#### **Turn Your Parking Problems Around With a UTURN**

The best of breed turntable from

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enables vehicles to be manoeuvred safely and in tight spaces. Providing compliance with the Highways Commission and Planning Departments. UK Turntables are able to offer a wide range of top surfaces enabling their solution to blend



into the existing environment. The UTURN tables are available for both domestic and industrial applications, manual or electric, supply only or fully installed. Maximise your parking with an aesthetically pleasing solution. ...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

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Enquiry N

#### **Bespoke Planter Service**



Cedar Nursery offer a bespoke planter service which allows you to specify exactly the size and style of any galvanised steel, powdercoated or stainless steel container you need. It's even simpler if you just want troughs, windowboxes or cubes, when an online calculator gives you an instant quote at the click of a button at www.landscaping.co.uk.

Complex designs can modelled in 3D before production so you can check you've got it right, and it's delivered right to your door. ...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

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## Rainwaiter Products Ltd

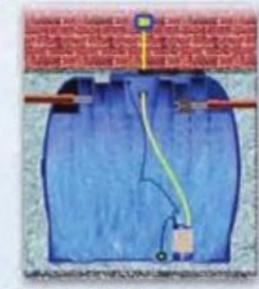
Suppliers of Domestic and Industrial Rainwater Systems

We supply what is probably the widest range of rainwater products available in the U.K. including:

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We have everything from plastic guttering systems in a range of styles, sizes and colours to suit any property, through faux cast iron systems that combine the benefits of plastic with a traditional appearance, to real cast iron systems which may be a requirement for certain types of property.

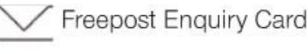


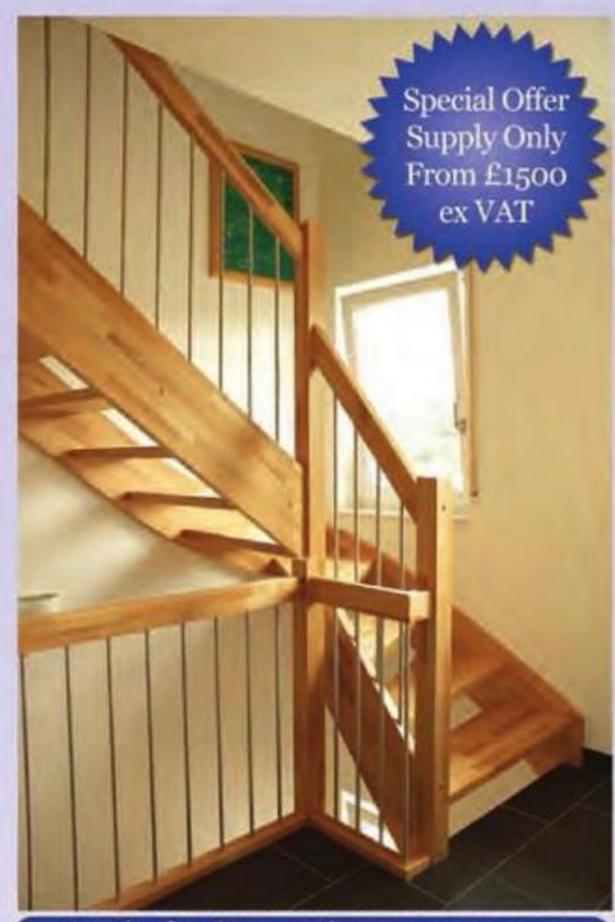


Call 01884 881782 www.rainwaterproducts.com

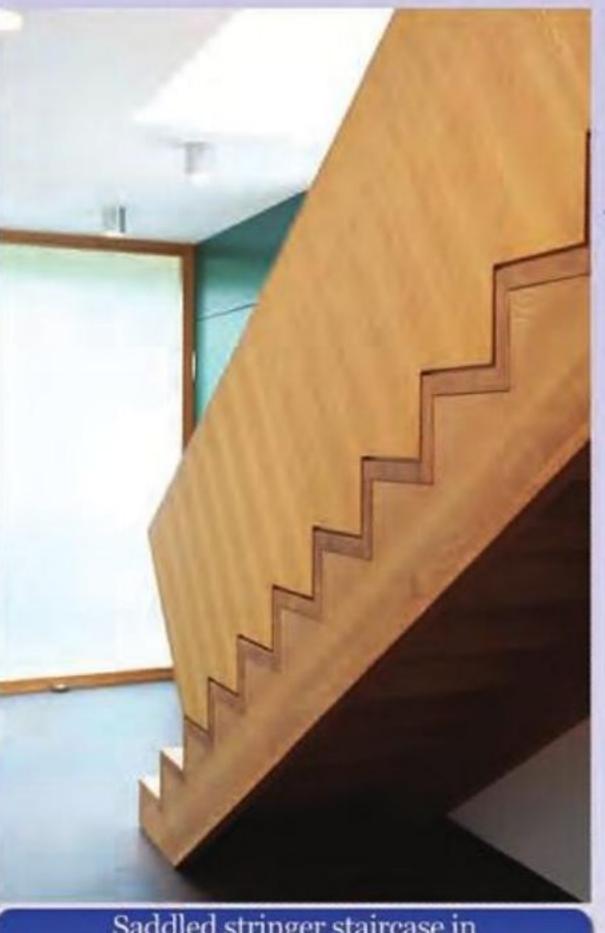
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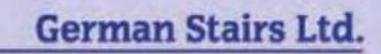




Mortised stringer staircase type money save in hardwood beech classic with stainless steel spindles



Saddled stringer staircase in solid oak with risers and special wooden balustrade



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Self supporting / cantilever staircase with hardwood treads lacquered white, balustrade with safety glass panels with posts and handrail in stainless steel



Self supporting / cantilever staircase with oak treads, railing balustrade made of stainless steel with round oak handrail



Mortised wall side and saddled on inner side stringer staircase in American walnut classic hardwood with stainless steel rods

German Stairs design, manufacture and install modern and contemporary feature staircases. We also manufacture stringer, spiral, helical and space saving staircases. All our staircases are produced at our German manufacturing company using the very latest and most advanced engineering technology. We offer our services to both residential and commercial markets throughout the UK and Europe.

Our German manufacturing company has been producing staircases for more than 80 years selecting the finest raw materials available, using the very latest automated machinery whilst maintaining an environmentally friendly position. We consistently strive for perfection and with our know how, quality, service and value together with our dedication and commitment to our clients have achieved a highly respected and renown reputation from within our industry.

Enquiry N° 344

Our stairs are available in wood, marble, granite and glass with a huge selection of banister options to suit.

So, whether it is the wow factor you are looking for or a more traditional look just email or phone us today and we will lead you the way to your dream staircase.



# Energy Saving Tips

#### **Cavity Wall Insulation**

According to the Energy Saving Trust there are still 6.3 million homes which need cavity wall insulation. Cavity wall insulation pays for itself in around two years, and it will typically save 15 per cent - or £115 - a year on your home's fuel bills. Cavity wall insulation needs to be installed by a professional and can be finished in a single day. The cost of having cavity wall insulation installed has never been lower as it's subsidised by the Government which has pledged to slash the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2050. Find out more about applying for a grant at www.direct.gov.uk.

#### Solid Wall Insulation

A further 7 million homes have un-insulated solid walls. External wall insulation can save a whopping £400 a year on energy bills, cutting down heat loss through the walls by 35%. This means that although it requires a significant investment to install, it begins to pay for itself immediately with huge money savings and these will continue forever. Alternatively, internal wall insulation can save around £380 a year on energy bills and an impressive two tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

#### Floor Insulation

With 15 per cent of heat being lost through the floor ensuring that a home has an adequately insulated floor can provide additional energy savings. Significant savings can be made by reducing draughts by sealing gaps around loose floorboards and skirtings. However, it is sometimes possible to insulate

timber floors by lifting the floorboards and laying glass mineral wool insulation supported on netting between the joists.

#### Loft Insulation

Loft insulation saves on average £150 every single year from when it's installed. Not only is installing loft insulation a pretty straightforward job, but it will boost your homes energy efficiency rating too. Even if you've already installed loft insulation by topping it up to 270mm you could save on average an additional £45 year on year.

#### Types of Insulation: -Glass Mineral Wool

Probably the world's most popular and widely used insulation material, glass wool is made from recycled glass bottles so it is ultra-eco-friendly. It is easy to handle and install plus it is an extremely cost-effective insulation. Glass mineral wool is rot-proof, odourless, non hygroscopic, does not sustain vermin and will not encourage the growth of fungi, mould or bacteria. It is chemically neutral and does not contain impurities.

#### **Rock Mineral Wool**

Rock mineral wool has a more solid structure, so is ideal for situations where it may be under compression (e.g. on a flat roof). Mineral wool insulation products are available in rolls of different widths and thicknesses for quick and simple DIY installation - for example,

With 2009 being the coldest for 20 years it is important to ensure that your new build / renovation is fully insulated. Creating an air tight home is essential in providing a build which is not only warm but energy efficient. Thinkinsulation.com (Knauf) has supplied the following tips as a guide for your new build.

> between the rafters in a roof or joists in a ceiling or floor. It can also be produced as lightweight 'slabs' for installing into the cavity walls when building new houses. 'Loose' mineral wool can also be used to fill cavity walls and is blown in through a hole drilled in the wall after it is built. Installing mineral wool insulation is also an effective fire safety measure as it does not burn easily and can therefore prevent fire spreading. In fact, rock wool can resist temperatures above 1,000°C.

#### Rigid Foam

Rigid foam insulation has high compressive strength and is usually used where it needs to support weight (e.g. under a floor, or in lofts as a storage solution). As well as strength and durability, rigid foam insulation can also provide additional properties such as fire resistance and acoustic insulation to minimise the level of sound travelling through walls and floors.

Lydia Sharples from Thinkinsulation.com, says: "There are so many simple ways in which households can become more energy efficient and save money as an added bonus; the payback on loft insulation can be as little as two years. As one third of all heat escapes through the walls of a house it's also worth investigating cavity or solid wall insulation, particularly as there are many grants available at the moment." Enquiry Nº 142

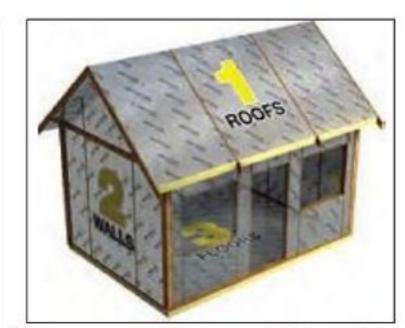
#### 'Condensafe '+' -**Protecting the Environment**

The increasing problem of untreated low level acidic condensate from condensing boilers heading for the drainage infrastructure and soakaways has been addressed by Salamander, part of Sentinel Performance Solutions, with the release of its 'Condensafe '+' unit. This unique and innovative in-line unit, designed to be mounted between the boiler condensate outlet and the drain, contains a special medium that will effectively neutralise acidic waste from condensing boilers before allowing the now harmless waste to be discharged to the drains. The neutralising medium can be easily replaced every twelve months when the boiler undergoes its annual service.

...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

Tel: 01928 588330 www.sentinel-solutions.net





#### **Changes Prove That 3** into 1 Will Go

Recticel Insulation Products has announced a change to its product range which will simplify the task of choosing the correct insulation board for a specific task. The company's Eurosarking, Eurowall TF and Eurofloor boards are to be replaced by a single product -Eurothane GP - which will be suitable for all the applications previously covered by the three original products. At the same time as reconfiguring the range, Recticel has also taken the opportunity to improve the thermal performance of the new Eurothane GP board to provide an improved lambda value of 0.022. The high performance Eurothane GP board has a rigid, CFC and HCFC-free PIR foam core which has a closed cell construction. The foam core is faced on both sides with a multi-layer, coated aluminum foil. It is available in a wide range of thicknesses which help satisfy current Building Regulations and The Code for Sustainable Homes legislation.

... searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu Enquiry Nº 144

#### **Breathable Interior Insulation: iQ-Therm**

Up to now the use of internally applied insulation was extremely limited due to the well known problems of vapour barriers being created, that can frequently lead to terrible damage from condensation and mould growth. This is now solved by the iQ-Therm insulation system developed by Remmers, which also meets the latest



and even the 2011 Building Regulations Part L thermal efficiency requirements. The Remmers iQ-Therm system also gives a real return on your investment, because it allows cost savings of up to 75% to be made in room heating costs, year on year after it is installed.

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Tel: 0845 373 0103 www.remmers.co.uk

Enquiry Nº 145

#### **Grundfos/Alldos Integration Complete**



As of 1st July the final steps to fully integrate Alldos into the Grundfos Pumps Ltd. family were completed. This journey began back in January 2005 when the Grundfos Group acquired the Alldos Group to augment their dosing and disinfection portfolio. This was done

to ensure Grundfos could offer customers greater choice and more expertise in the niche, but key, dosing and disinfectant solutions arena. Since then both companies have been working to align their business models to maximise the scope and commercial opportunities that this combined expertise could offer customers.

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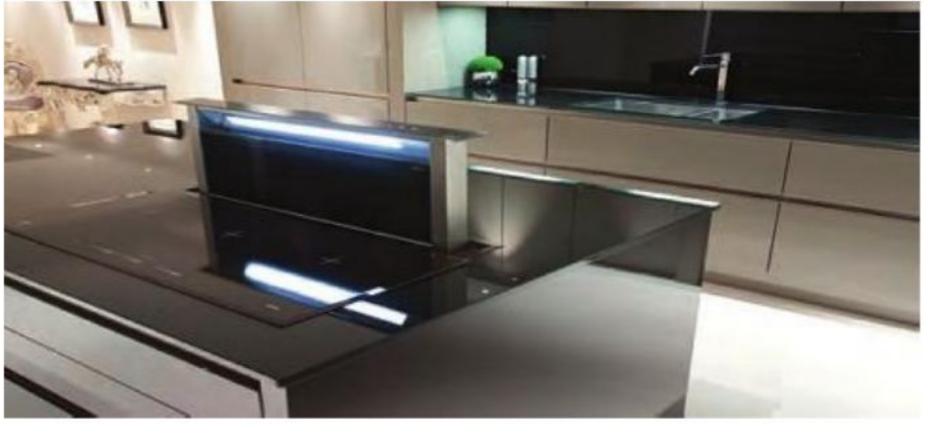
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# Living the Dream

Stephen Boad, Managing Director at Intervari, advises on the use of a kitchen design specialist when deciding on a bespoke kitchen.

he kitchen is probably the most used and important room in the house, a place for eating, meeting and relaxing, and is often regarded as the hub of any home.

That's why for many self builders the design and ambience of a kitchen will often be integral to the rest of the home and therefore plays the most significant role in the development of its interior design.

So, equipped with the right house, you now want the dream kitchen. However, as your needs and requirements are unique to you, not just any off-the-shelf design will do. You want a kitchen that is going to suit your home, tastes and lifestyle. It needs to include tailored specifications, incorporating your cooking and storage needs.

"Where to begin when there are so many interior designers and showrooms offering bespoke design solutions?"

Often, when searching for a bespoke kitchen, one place immediately springs to mind, Wigmore Street in London's Mayfair, more affectionately known as 'kitchen alley'.

Stephen Boad, Managing Director at Intervari, has been in the industry for over 15 years and is a highly experienced kitchen design specialist and expert in bespoke kitchen creation. "One thing that my time in the trade has taught me is that people are increasingly unhappy at being offered

generic kitchens with predictable and tired design and functionality. The bespoke option is our clients' primary need when detailing and planning an interior space." explains Boad.

"When looking for a bespoke kitchen, an experienced designer will design and build it to specifically meet your living requirements. This requires a clear understanding the clients brief," he continues. "My recommendation to all self building clients would be to source a professionally run organisation that offers continuity of service, from the inception through the design process and ultimately to the manufacture and installation, by highly skilled tradesmen."

Using a kitchen design company gives the self builder peace of mind, ensuring that all areas of the project are catered for from the consultation stage through to completion. There are benefits to engaging a company who are able to offer a full turnkey design and build solution, incorporating construction, mechanical and electrical services, lighting design and supply, audio visual systems, air conditioning and ventilation. Stephen explains, "Indeed, many self builders are now looking to enhance their homes with the latest functionality and equipment offered by the Audio and Visual industry into their kitchen spaces to create a unique and truly bespoke area. Often these incorporate integrated coffee makers, electronic drawers, temperature controlled drinks storage and media centres."

Trends in colour and texture are also an obvious key factor in today's kitchen design.

They have the ability to transform a room with immediate effect; from brightening up a 'dull' room, to enhancing the look and feel of the kitchen worktop to add depth and dimension. There are several ranges of finishes and designs, from the contemporary high-gloss, clean-lined Italian or German manufactured brands, which include Metris, Rot Punkt, Poggenpohl and Boffi, to handmade traditional designs, utilising timber or hand-painted finishes to the client's specifications.

#### "Worktops visually tie a design together"

The choice in worktops to suit different lifestyles can also be a minefield with many different materials to choose from. These include timbers such as walnut, wenge, oak, ebony, beech, iroko, black American walnut, maple, zebrano and cherry, to natural products such as marble, granite, silestone, corian and quartz. "When choosing your worktop, think about your lifestyle. For example, marble looks amazing, but is not as durable or hardwearing as granite and quartz is a popular choice for contemporary kitchens," advises Boad. "Worktops can visually tie your design together to compliment or contrast to consolidate the rest of your design.

"In summary, it is imperative that each project needs to be meticulously planned, with your chosen design team working closely with you to produce an interior that reflects your lifestyle and individual requirements."

#### Exciting Kitchen Sinks & Taps - Linear & Matrix R25

This **Abode** Linear monobloc tap has been created for people who want the perfect blend of design, performance and sheer quality. Abode taps form a perfect partnership with their newly created range of kitchen sink designs. The classically designed Matrix R25 undermount stainless steel sink collection offers



a wide range with tightly radiused 25mm corners designed to enable a combination approach to the sink layout or for single product installation. There are six sinks within the collection which come complete with the unique Orbit waste fittings, overflow, fixing and pipework kits, as standard. ...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

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www.abode.eu

Enquiry N°

#### **Lightweight Top Fits the Marine Lifestyle**



John and Joan Hodgson chose Trend R, Granite Transformations' luxurious granite mix, for the galley of their recently built narrowboat, the material fitting beautifully over the original laminate worktops. The work was carried out quickly and unobtrusively by Granite Transformations' Nottinghamshire

showroom, in Newark. "With its high tech blend of finest Italian granite and around five per cent polyester resin, this material is far lighter and slimmer than granite slab or engineered stone, yet offers the same, if not superior technical performance," says local GT franchise owner, lan Floyde. ...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

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Enquiry No 153

#### Myson Offers an 'Off The Wall Idea'

Myson's stylish concept in kitchen design combines the stylish Innoko kitchen towel rail with one of its most successful niche plinth heaters; Kickspace. This concept provides a kitchen that is warm and welcoming, convenient and practical, and will allow more room for appliances, worktops and storage units. The two products offer a dual role, Kickspace heating the kitchen, Innoko offering a place to not only hang your towels, but also dry them. Innoko works from a small sealed electrical unit, independently of any central heating system. It is powered by an economical 40w element known as an APM (Auto-Power Management) system. Typically the APM element uses less power than a light bulb.

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Enquiry Nº 151





#### **Belthorn from Shaws of** Darwen

Inspired design and superb craftsmanship are combined in the Shaws Inset and Undermount range, an elegant collection of 'made in England' fireclay ceramic sinks in both white and biscuit finishes. The Belthorn undermounted sink features the Shaws logo on the back inside of the sink but has no overflow. It has a central 31/2" waste outlet suitable for basket strainer or waste disposer. The sink works perfectly with granite, marble or wooden work surfaces. Visit the website to see the complete range of sinks, taps and accessories available. ...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

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Enquiry Nº 154

#### You Imagine - Westin Delivers



There was plenty to celebrate for Westin at this year's KBB. Not only did their stylish award winning Art Deco styled stand receive acclaim, but their products ensured visitors to that stand were buzzing with excitement. Westin chose KBB to present the first concept design from their new themed product range "All that Jazz". This striking Piano design hood, with on-

trend elegant curves, created a stir both on and off the stand and all agreed that it demonstrated Westin's unparalleled ability to design highly functional products, with no compromising on style. ...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

Tel: 01484 421585 www.westin.co.uk



# Taking the Plunge

Deciding on which swimming pool to install, what shape to have and where it should go all depend on the space available and budget. Here are some tips from SPATA (the Swimming Pool and Allied Trades Association) on the things to consider.

ool kits are available so that clients can buy the items that they need to be able to install their own pool. This solution has been available for many years since they are affordable and offer a choice of pools, whether the pool is above ground or in ground.

#### Pool Types

There are four basic pool types to consider, each with its own merits:

- Hard finish; a strong, waterproof reinforced concrete shell finished with tiles, mosaic, marbelite or special paint.
- Liner finish; a tailor-made PVC liner provides the necessary waterproofing, avoiding the need for a heavy structural reinforced base. Correctly designed and installed, liners are crease and wrinkle free and are available in a range of different qualities and attractive finishes.
- Glass Fibre/Ceramic; a one-piece moulded swimming pool shell that is strong, durable and requires minimal maintenance.
- 4. Above ground pools; not to be confused with a more basic, less expensive 'splasher' pool, there is a range of high quality above ground pools available in a range of shapes and sizes.

The decision to opt for an 'above ground pool' may depend on how much initial preparation you would like as there is no hole to dig. Although an 'above ground pool' requires much less preparation in comparison to an 'in ground pool', they do still require work, such as installing the filtration.

Of the 'in ground' varieties there is plenty of choice including a one piece pool, a liner pool or a concrete reinforced pool; all of which have their own pros and cons. For example, a concrete reinforced pool may be the most technically

demanding whereas a one piece pool comes pre manufactured, and although there are a number of items needed in order to complete the pool, these come as part of the kit.

Most self build projects are likely to involve outdoor pools, but some may be indoor pools and this requires a great deal of knowledge and access to suitably experienced people to assist such a project. Depending on the amount of background experience that you have, and how much of a challenge you want to give yourself, it may be useful to get some experienced

professionals to do some of the work with you, or even for you. Some elements will require the service of qualified professionals e.g. installation of electricity and gas, so if you do not have this expertise, then find out costs when setting your budget.

A covered pool increases the amount of time you can use the pool throughout the year as well as reducing heating and maintenance costs. However, a covered pool will also incur higher installation costs.

Some pool kit suppliers will provide full installation booklets and guidance when purchasing their equipment, while others will offer a technical help desk, if required. Make sure that you ask what assistance is available and whether there will be a charge for the advice.

#### Other factors to consider

Installing a pool is a major undertaking and needs careful planning and construction if you are to reap the rewards of your investment.

The size and specification of your dream pool will affect the cost.

Continued on page 36...



#### Position, shape and size

Ensure your chosen position will benefit from maximum exposure to sunlight. Avoid trees and other foliage which could overshadow the pool or shed leaves and other debris into it.

Planning permission is unlikely to be required unless you opt for an enclosed pool, or live in a listed building or conservation area. However, SPATA always advises buyers to seek advice from the local planning department just to make sure.

Site access is an important factor. Excavation machinery will need to get in and out, so it's never too early to think about landscaping, given the availability of excavated material. Soil conditions may need specific treatment and changes of ground level and existing structures will all need to be taken into consideration.

#### Heating and maintenance

The majority of pools are heated and therefore consideration should be given to the best heating method. Oil and gas boilers and electric heaters may be your first thought but don't forget other options such as heat pumps, heat exchangers and solar panels, which are more environmentally friendly and can significantly reduce costs and your carbon footprint.

Heat retaining covers should be used where possible, however, irregularly shaped pools can sometimes make this difficult.

Modern pools are so reliable that, in general, if properly looked after the pool will only need to be emptied for major repair work. The trick to pool maintenance is the 'little and often' approach with perhaps only 5-10 minutes per day with an additional 20-30 minutes each week in the summer. Off-season, a properly prepared pool may only need a monthly check.

#### Accessories and optional extras

There is an enormous selection of enhancements and labour-saving devices available on the market. These range from



underwater lighting, automatic water top-up, counter current machines and automatic cleaners to diving boards, slides, special deck finishes and poolside furniture. Research what is available and choose the accessories and extras which suit your lifestyle to help you make best use of your investment.

#### Finding help

Building a pool is a major specialist undertaking and requires expert assistance from the outset. SPATA recommends that clients use a SPATA member to buy their pool kit, as these members belong to the UK Trade Association and follow SPATA's Code of Ethics.

Enquiry N° 156







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## A Guide to Your Dream Garden Studio

With all the uncertainty in the housing market and a recent Budget that's big on austerity, many people who were thinking about moving to give themselves more space are now looking at a garden studio as a cheaper, easier alternative. Stuart Anderson from Hilton Garden Studios explains what steps to take to ensure you end up with a dream space in your garden.

he first question to ask is 'what am I going to use it for'? Some clients want to work from home, but in an office rather than at the kitchen table. whilst others want to use the extra space to relax away from the kids, or for the kids to relax away from them.

Secondly, will the studio be in use all year round or just as a summer house

#### Points to Consider

Ask yourself what sort of services you'll need. An office will undoubtedly require broadband

and phone capability and probably running water for a kitchenette and a loo.

Bear in mind that someone from the council will have to come and inspect the service trench at some point during the process. It's usually a formality but still worth factoring in.

How much garden space do you want to give up? This will largely depend on what you intend to use it for but in any event I wouldn't recommend building anything less than around 3m<sup>2</sup>. Remember that any building less than 2.5m high almost certainly won't require planning permission, making the whole process much quicker.



Another crucial element is to check the credentials of the company. How many employees do they have? How many of your type of garden studios have they built and whereabouts in the country? How long has the company been established? Will they let you speak to some of their satisfied customers?

The recession has brought new companies into the market some of which were no more than shed-makers a few months ago. Don't be afraid of asking some probing questions. If the company is reputable, they will be happy to answer you.

Always get a site survey before starting work. This will confirm if your plans are suitable for the space and raise any issues before it's too late.

Make sure you use a company that has industry backed insurance. Any studio worth having comes with a 10 year guarantee that is still valid even if the firm goes under.

Finally, and most importantly, budget properly. A garden studio is much cheaper, and a less intrusive building project, than an extension, but it still costs money. A small, no frills log cabin should cost around £6,000, whilst a large, well insulated affair will be closer to the £20,000 mark. Enquiry No 159









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Enquiry N° 161

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Kingspan Water has launched a new, smart control panel for its domestic Envireau rainwater harvesting system, making the process of setting up the system both simple and fast. The control panel also offers a multitude of new monitoring functions so that management and fault-reporting, via an LCD display, is easy to do. The neat, wall-mounted, intelligent control panel automatically self-configures the Envireau with a set-up wizard providing installers with a step-by-step guide through the whole process. Once installed, an LCD display panel provides real-time operating information about the system.





#### Monthly People's Choice Award Now Up & Running

Dickies' nationwide UK Worker of the Year "good news initiative" has just moved into its next phase, with the official launch of the first of its monthly "People's Choice" - worker of the month competitions. Everyone who has been nominated for UK Worker of the Year in the previous month - in this case during May - is now eligible for the new "People's Choice" prize,



which will be given to the person who polls the most votes during the following month. To enter, nominate or simply vote for someone, please go to: www.ukworkeroftheyear.com

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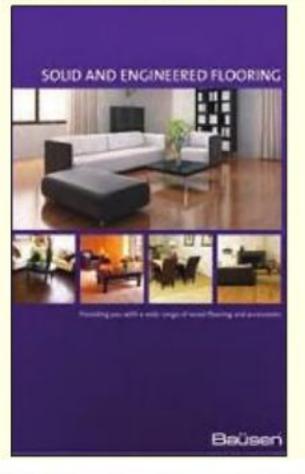
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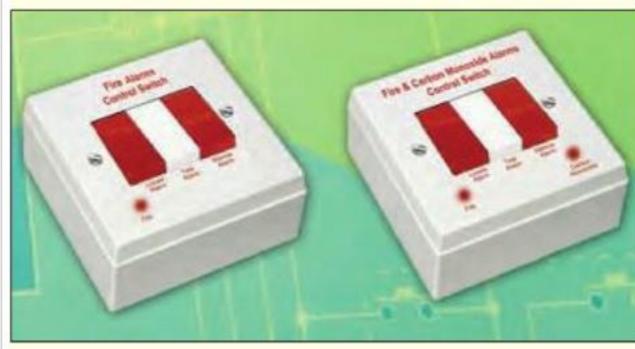
#### Mix & Match Mosaic Collection

From Trend of Vicenza comes the classic Vitreo, Brillante, Shining collection, which marries the beauty and authenticity of vitreous glass tesserae, with a unique backing membrane that makes installing mosaics easier and quicker. The VBS collezione consists of three colour-matched families - opalescent Vitreo, aventurina-accented Brillante and iridescent Shining - all of which are hand cut to 2cm (3/4") mosaic squares and which can be used individually or combined together in studio-designed or custom mixes to create truly stunning effects. There is even the option of 24ct Aureo mosaics, hand crafted with gold leaf and real lead crystal, for creating subtle highlights and accents. ...searchable information archive at www.sbhonline.eu

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Aico Ltd has launched two innovative control switches for its unique RadioLINK Fire and Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms. With best practice supporting larger alarm systems comprising three,

four or more smoke and heat alarms interconnected, occasionally also with CO alarms, improved control functions are vital to ensure the system is simple for residents to use. Aico's new Alarm Control Switches come in two variants - one for use with smoke and heat alarms and one for combined smoke, heat and CO alarm systems. Both Alarm Control Switches are powered by a built-in ten year Lithium battery.

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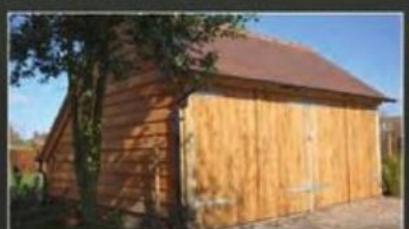


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# Building for the Future

Barbara Fischer-Clark, Stommel Haus, Clark & Fischer-Clark, talks about the eco and sustainability benefits of choosing a timber home.

ouses built of timber were considered a temporary solution in the mid 20th century when quick housing was required after WWII. Cheaply and quickly built, they spoilt the reputation of timber buildings.

However, over hundreds of years timber has been used to build quality homes and buildings which are still standing strong centuries later, shown by the many examples of very old timber buildings in Switzerland, Germany, Scandinavia, Turkey and Japan, some of which were built hundreds of years ago. The most well known example of an ancient timber structure is the 1300 year old temple complex of Nara.

#### **How Times Have Changed!**

Timber house manufacturers today pride themselves in applying state-of-the-art production methods in a sheltered and secure environment of a factory using top quality timber harvested in certified and sustainable forests. Thanks to modern technology, certified and monitored manufacturing and construction methods, timber buildings today offer incomparable constructional and design potential of a high quality. Premium timber house manufacturers today are providing the listed buildings of tomorrow.

#### **Ecology and Sustainability**

Timber is ecological and sustainable and a truly renewable building material. Its sustainability is unsurpassed:

 Timber is grown quicker than it is used by most of the main timber supplying countries which have long-standing policies to re-grow more timber than is felled. For instance Germany has an annual timber growth of 80 million cubic metres with an annual use of 50 million cubic metres.

- The 1992 environment symposium in Rio de Janeiro declared the concept of "sustainable development" as an international standard. Since then certifications for forestry and timber trading, such as PEFC and FCS, have been introduced and are strictly followed by the suppliers delivering to the premium manufacturers.
- Good quality timber homes use constructive wood protection; the timber is devoid of any chemical treatment adhering to the extensive standards and guidelines for non-toxic wood protection.

#### CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction

Timber homes reduce CO2 in several ways:

- Good quality timber homes achieve top energy efficiency levels in the Code for Sustainable Homes. This is due to the outstanding insulation quality and heat retention of a timber building. Furthermore, to achieve human wellbeing the high surface temperature of wood allows for 2°C less air temperature in a timber house compared to a traditional house.
- Wood is a building material with a positive CO<sub>2</sub> balance and requires less primary energy during the build. Wood uses solar energy to grow and stores vast amounts of carbon dioxide during photosynthesis. A cubic metre of timber thus locks away around one ton of the harmful greenhouse gas. At least another ton is saved when using wood instead of other building materials some of which require a lot of fossil energy and release CO2 during production.

#### **Unrivalled Properties of Timber**

Living and working in a timber building means being in a pleasant and healthy environment. Besides its sustainability, timber has unique



properties that no other building material can rival. These benefits are:

- Timber is diffusible and hygroscopic.
- It filters the air and thus provides a fresh and healthy climate in a building.
- It has humidity regulating properties which have positive effects on the atmospheric conditions of a room.
- Timber is more hygienic than other materials; scientists have proven that bacteria survives longer on artificial materials than on timber.
- Timber has exceptional insulation qualities with a high surface temperature.
- Timber absorbs sound and reduces electrostatic charge thus improving the atmosphere in a modern house. Timber is a good protection against electromagnetic radiation which can have negative effects on the human health.
- Timber smells good, looks good and feels good and thus has a positive effect on our wellbeing. Timber positively affects all human senses.
- Timber buildings provided by good quality and certified manufacturers have a longevity which can compete with any brick or stone building
- Timber is safe. Not only does it guarantee a better stability in earthquakes but it also offers good protection in the case of fire. Its fire resistance is comparable to conventional materials which are proven by independent assessors. The larger the cross section, the longer timber takes to burn through, as the carbon layer created by the fire protects the core of the timber.

#### **Quality Contemporary Timber Houses**

Considering the relationship between people, material and the environment is of the utmost importance when building a home. Using timber as the main building material is the right choice as it has endless design possibilities, unrivalled physical and technical properties and provides great benefits when combined with clever planning, high precision and well monitored construction and high quality implementation.

Premium manufacturers allow you to choose a pre-fabricated timber house designed for your own needs and matched to the plot where it will be erected. The house will be pre-fabricated in the sheltered environment of a factory where it can be produced to the highest accuracy using CNC equipment. This allows very quick assembly within a handful of working days with great benefits including being independent of the weather, less disturbance to the neighbours, no waste material on site and, the greatest benefit of all, on-time completion of the house.

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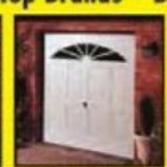
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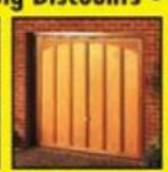
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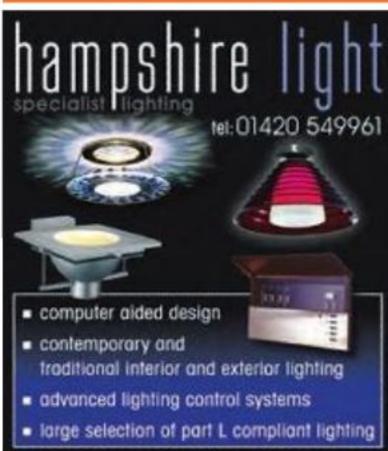
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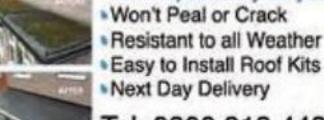
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June/July 2010

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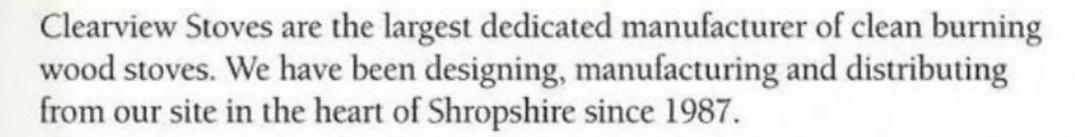
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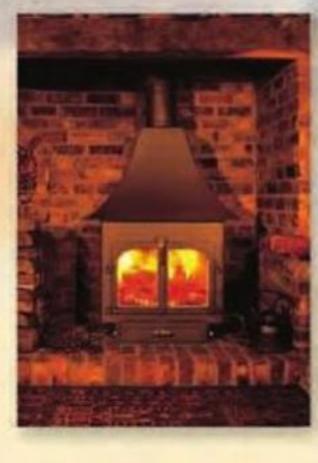
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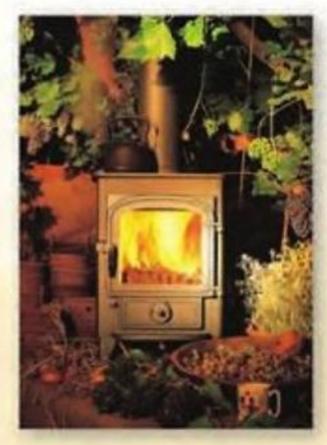
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