

# selfbuilder & homemaker

January/February 2013

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## Making the right connections

One area that causes considerable anxiety for many new and existing selfbuilders is that of coordinating the supply and delivery of new utility services.

Even if you're only looking to build a single dwelling, coordinating service provisions could mean liaising with upwards of 10 separate parties over many months. The requirements and complexity for blocks of flats or a series of properties could be even greater. In addition to dealing with local councils and regulatory authorities you'll also have to select which suppliers to go with for gas, electricity, water and communications from all those available – but which will deliver the package you require?

Each project will be quite different and while many of the suggestions listed below for managing the new connection process appear to be quite logical, they are regularly overlooked. So to avoid some of the more common pitfalls you should:

- Carefully plan the provision of all utilities at the outset of the project and start negotiations as soon as possible – 6 - 9 months in advance should be the minimum time frame to consider
- Don't under estimate the amount of time that will be needed to manage the process – then at least double it and you may be getting close
- Factor in appropriate housing to accommodate the supplies and metering and consider the ducting that will be required to reach them
- Don't ignore what is currently on-site as you may need to remove or re-route them to get the new supplies to the new point in the property where they will be connected
- If you require temporary supplies during the build, consider putting the site amenities close to the eventual termination

point, constantly moving things around can be costly

- It's a highly competitive market so complete your market test and don't simply select a supplier purely on the fact they were the only one contacted to provide a proposal
- Independent Connection Providers (ICPs) for electricity and Utility Infrastructure Providers (UIPs) for gas are able provide the initial connections through to installing the metering so you don't have to use the 'traditional' Distribution Network Operators in the area
- Think about future requirements and allow for them in the plan. Fibre is the perfect example here – you may not need it now but it is clearly looking like the future for all types of entertainment and communications – so get proposals up front.

If this all appears just a little too complicated or daunting, help is at hand. Over recent years and with the de-regulation of the sector, specialist players with expert knowledge, advice and experience have emerged and are taking the sector by storm. They can take on the coordination of the process, saving many selfbuilders time, money and heartache.

"Many people seriously under estimate the time and effort needed to coordinate the delivery of new utility services," stated Jeff Wilson a connection project manager at Sutton based **Maxim Eyes**, one such company that has steadily grown over recent years, by providing professional project management services for new utility connections. "By coordinating all the new provisions on a project we ensure that everything is cost effectively delivered on time and our clients gain real economies of scale."

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Cover image courtesy of Polypipe Home Solutions, see page 20 for more



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# TOMORROW'S SMART:HOME

## Charity Networking Event

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Sponsored by the Eco Technology Show and in association with the British Homes Awards and the Building Centre, netMAGevents is delighted to announce a networking event to be held at the Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London. Join us on the evening of Thursday 28th February 2013, 18.30 - 21.30.

Please contact Lesley Mayo on [lesley@netmagmedia.eu](mailto:lesley@netmagmedia.eu) for further details and visit: <http://netmagevents.eventbrite.co.uk/> for tickets

## Build It Live!

23–24 February, Glow Exhibition Centre, Bluewater, Kent

With unprecedented government support for people to build their own houses and many homeowners considering improving rather than moving, 2013 is set to see the trend in self build and renovation continue. So whether you are planning to build from scratch or update an existing home, Build It Live! at Glow Bluewater is the perfect place to visit this February to see the latest products and meet with leading experts all under one roof.

[www.builditlive.co.uk](http://www.builditlive.co.uk)

## Ecobuild

5–7 March, London's ExCeL

See page 39 for more information on the biggest event for sustainable design, construction and the built environment.

[www.ecobuild.co.uk](http://www.ecobuild.co.uk)

## Ideal Home Show

15 March–1 April, Earls Court, London

Now in its 105th year, the Ideal Home Show has everything you need, whether you're working on a substantial home project or want to add those finishing touches that make a house a home.

[www.idealhomedshow.co.uk](http://www.idealhomedshow.co.uk)

## The National Homebuilding and Renovating Show

21–24 March, NEC Birmingham

See page 53 for more information on the self build and renovation event of the year.

[www.homebuildingshow.co.uk](http://www.homebuildingshow.co.uk)

## National Self Build & Renovation Show

12–14 April, National Self Build & Renovation Centre, Swindon

Visit the UK's ONLY permanent centre for selfbuilders & renovators this April for expert advice.

[www.buildstore.co.uk](http://www.buildstore.co.uk)

## Top kitchen trends for 2013

The kitchen is now heralded as the social hub of the house. Makeover experts **Granite Transformations** look at the hottest design trends for 2013, which enable the kitchen to take on an exciting new look without breaking the bank.

### #1 Kitchen remodelling

The hottest trend is remodelling, which involves retaining the familiar layout and cabinetry, but refacing existing worktops and cabinet doors and drawers.

### #2 Colourful kitchens

Vibrant colours like red, orange and emerald green are popular for worktops, reflecting a more casual, upbeat way of living, or high gloss door facings in olive, paprika, blueberry or plum.

### #3 Mixed finishes

Take a cue from interior designers, with a mix of cabinetry finishes that combine dark and lighter tones at different levels. Or perhaps choose a different worktop colour for an island, to contrast with main cabinets.

### #4 Bolder splashbacks

Today's trend is towards bigger and more decorative splashbacks. Extend composite granite, quartz and recycled glass worktops to the underside of wall units or ceiling height for a luxurious finish or go for glass mosaic tiles for elegance.

### #5 Cleaner lines

Follow the continental fashion for cool, sleek lines, featuring flat slab doors with



no handles or minimalist door & drawer pulls. There's also a move toward matt finishes as an alternative to high gloss.

### #6 Island units

If space allows, an island unit turns your layout into a designer kitchen, with bar stools for informal dining and conversation. Centre islands can feature fashionable waterfall ends, bringing worktops almost to ground level, or curved doors for a more fluid, ergonomic feel.

### #7 Eco-chic materials

Eco-friendly materials are still gaining popularity. Choose from recycled glass worktops or composite granite and quartz surfaces containing natural stone salvaged from quarrying sites.

### #8 Decorative murals

It can be effective to introduce a bold splash of colour with a wall mural or feature panel. Authentic glass mosaic tiles mounted on a backing mattress introduce colour, texture and a tactile finish, while natural daylight and halogen spotlights contribute a reflective dimension.

Enq. 602

## news

### Record number of consumers searching for TrustMark tradesmen

**TrustMark**, the government endorsed quality mark for tradesmen, today records its highest number of tradesmen viewings on its website with 3.9 million homeowners searching for local tradesmen in 2012 to carry out work on their home or garden.

During 2012, the average number of viewings across all trades increased by over 20 per cent compared to the same period in 2011, with electricians, heating engineers, plumbers and glaziers seeing the largest rise, primarily due to homeowners wanting urgent work on their properties as a result of the poor weather conditions across the UK.

Stuart Carter head of PR and marketing at TrustMark said: "With the economy

in its current state, we are delighted to see such high numbers of viewings from homeowners searching for TrustMark tradesmen, particularly as it shows that many still require a professional tradesman to do their work. TrustMark tradesmen's details have been increasing year on year and this considerable success has been a result of a number of marketing initiatives carried out during 2012 and working in partnership with key consumer organisations such as Citizens Advice, the Trading Standards Institute and National Home Improvement Council who are all signposting people to TrustMark."

[www.trustmark.org.uk](http://www.trustmark.org.uk)

Enq. 603



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# A chip off the old block

The Smiths had always wanted a traditional, but modern, Georgian house fit for a king.

And now they have one, throne included

Written and photographed by Sarah Meikle



THE EXTERIOR OF THE HOUSE SHOWN FROM THE BACK GARDEN, INCLUDING THE BEAUTIFUL FOUNTAIN

The Georgian period in architecture was typified by a fascination with basic symmetry

The Georgian period in architecture was typified by a fascination with basic symmetry and centred, large panel-fronted doors, topped with rectangular windows. The elegant lines and functional simplicity of Georgian design meant that even after 1840, Georgian-style or neo-Georgian houses never really went out of fashion and, to this day, it remains the style of choice for high-end homes on many a modern estate.

A true Georgian-style manor house also requires the accompaniment of extensive grounds. However, with a gravel drive and a well-manicured lawn to complement the Palladian splendour of the house itself, the

acquisition of extensive acreage of parkland in rural East Sussex was a perfect beginning from which Jack and Debbie Smith could embark on their own Georgian self build.

The Smiths began their build in 2008 and completed it in 2012. They used traditional methods and reclaimed materials for much of the build. "We've always had big houses as we've always liked the space – the light and the high ceilings – so, we knew what we wanted," Debbie said. "You don't see traditionally-built houses any more; very few people do it."

Some of the traditional details of the interiors, are so subtle that they would go almost

unnoticed, making the house elegant. For example, the high skirting boards. In comparison to the traditional Georgian method of construction, there are some differences with this build, as Jack explained: "The main structure would have been slightly different because they wouldn't have had insulation blocks – or insulation full stop – available to them as we have now. This house is very well insulated, but that's something we had to do."

Building regulations caused some problems with the installation of the windows.

"We wanted big windows, high windows, and with all the regulations now, things like that

*Continued on page 11...*



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THE INDOOR SWIMMING POOL IN THE BASEMENT SURROUNDED BY GRAECO-ROMAN STATUES AND COLUMNS

are really difficult. It's very easy to do an eco-friendly house and have little tiny windows, because you're not losing any heat. But because we wanted these great big windows, we've had to really step up everything else to get that low U-value," explained Debbie.

"We also have 'pocket doors' that we copied from a Georgian house, after being so impressed with them. They slide into the wall, so that you can leave them open as far as you want without the problem of them slamming in the breeze."

The house itself has a typically white painted, Georgian exterior but it is filled with many modern, additional features. The basement is comprised of five rooms, one of which is the swimming pool.

"It is chemical-free so that the odour of chlorine doesn't permeate the house, which is what usually happens with indoor pools," said Debbie. "We have an ioniser, which uses copper and silver to purify the water continuously so that it is always safe to drink, and because it has no chemicals or salt in, it is kind to hair and skin.

"We also have all the water that enters the house ionised because it stops bacteria breeding in the showerheads and other areas where water might lie. It's considered to be beneficial

to health because of its antibacterial properties.

"The man who pioneered this system has installed it all over the world in public fountains, to counteract the spread of Legionnaires Disease," Debbie continued. "And also to purify dirty water to make it safe to drink in poorer countries. His name is Noel Parkinson and he lived locally in Waldron though he sadly passed away recently."

The four basement rooms – aside from the pool – consist of a sauna or steam room, a pool/snooker room, a gym and a cinema – but all of these are secondary to Debbie's favourite feature: the Quooka boiling tap, which means there is no need for a kettle. Apart from the many fun gadgets and rooms solely invented for procrastination, the Smiths have also installed a very practical feature, which differs from many ordinary builds – underfloor heating throughout.

"Underfloor heating is probably the star of this house. It's in every room, on all four floors and in the garage," said Jack. "I like to keep my car warm!"

The heating is powered by a ground source heat pump, which was troublesome to install.

"We had to start from scratch with that. If we'd have left it later, I don't think we would have done it. We put 3,000 metres of pipe one metre below ground, so that was a lot of

*Continued on page 13...*

'This house is very well insulated, but that's something we had to do'

– Jack Smith



THE CINEMA ROOM IN THE BASEMENT

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The garden had to be dug up prior the installation of the heat pump and re-laid afterwards



THE SNOOKER ROOM IN THE BASEMENT



THE EXTENSIVE LAWN AND FOUNTAIN IN THE FORMAL BACK GARDEN

engineering work."

The garden had to be dug up prior the installation of the heat pump and re-laid afterwards. The Smiths did this first, as a garden needs time to grow and develop. For the installation of the pump, 15 separate trenches had to be dug, each one 50 metres long and a metre deep.

The ground source heat pump is very important for the Smiths' energy saving, as Jack explained: "For every kilowatt that we put in or that we pay for (because you use electricity to run the pumps), we get the equivalent of four kilowatts of heat. If you consider what we're getting – the heating of the whole house, the swimming pool, all of our hot water, cooking, washing – it is worth installing a system like this."

"If someone was to go for electric central heating, without some sort of heat pump, it

would just be too expensive." Debbie added.

The Smiths also are awaiting the government's decision to include ground source heat pumps within their Feed-In tariff agreement. This would mean that not only would they generate renewable heat energy from the ground, but they would also receive a government subsidy for the running-cost.

"We didn't go into it because of that, we didn't even know about it at the time," Debbie said. "Because this is such a big house, we had quite a high quota of renewable energy that we had to meet."

The Smiths' house is imposing but stylistically discrete, so it remains in keeping with the existing properties in the immediate neighbourhood.

"It's perhaps a bit grander than some of the other houses in the area," Debbie observed.

*Continued on page 15...*



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"There are quite a lot of different styles around here. But the house next door is very similar, and in the village there are many Georgian and Georgian-style houses, so it's not that out of character."

The Smiths built their house at a leisurely pace, Debbie explained: "The main structure was built quite quickly. We didn't want to rush it. We wanted to think about things and we weren't in a desperate hurry to move in."

The couple lived in a bungalow in a nearby

town for a year until the garage was built and they could move into a two-bed apartment above, which enabled them to keep an eye on the project on-site.

"While we were above the garage we did the garden," Debbie continued.

"It seems that everybody wants an en-suite bathroom these days," Jack said. "Every bedroom has a dressing room and a bathroom. As a result, there is no communal bathroom in the house."

The toilet seat in the ground floor cloakroom

cost the Smiths £500 due to its throne-like styling and was hand-crafted by an 80-year old joiner. Its quirky shape may have pushed up the price but made it fit for a king! With such a splendid canvas on which to paint, the temptation to ostentatious embellishment, like that in the 'throne-room', was always going to be strong, but the Smiths managed to resist all but the cloakroom and the Graeco-Roman statuary in the grounds and around the periphery of the swimming pool.

*Continued overleaf...*



THE STAIRCASE FROM THE GROUND FLOOR



MINI ORNAMENT HOUSE IN THE BACK GARDEN



THE BESPOKE STAIRCASE, DESIGNED BY THE SMITHS, WAS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT



The Smiths' self build did not have any significant low points, aside from the overspend.

"As soon as you do a house of this size, everything is twice the price," Debbie exclaimed. "If you want anything a bit bigger in scale, you can't just go and get it at Jewson's," Jack said. "You have to have it made. It starts with floor beams. Because the span is so big, that doubles the price. If you want a door 3ft by 7ft, it is not on the shelf and that's what makes it so expensive."

The only other problem the Smiths came across was when they hosted a wedding and the marquee installers nearly punctured the

underground pipes used for the heat pump!

In marked contrast to the few low points, there were many highs.

"Seeing the finished result was the most amazing part of the project," Jack acknowledged.

"One of the high points was putting the bespoke staircase in," said Debbie. "We had the stairs we designed made by a stonemason. The staircase is cantilever and is only held up by the wall – but you could walk up the stairs as they were putting them in. It was something we had dreamed about, so that was a particular high."

In terms of the materials that were used in the



'If you want anything a bit bigger in scale, you can't just go and get it at Jewson's'

– Jack Smith

## Project Information

### What was the high point of the project?

"One of the high points was putting the staircase in."

**The low point was:** "As soon as you do a house of this size, everything is twice the price."

### Contacts

- Architect: Stephen Langer  
[www.stephenlanger.co.uk](http://www.stephenlanger.co.uk)
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- Windows: Everest + Son Joiners  
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- Stairs: Ian Knapper stone mason  
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construction, the Smiths tried to get the best value they could.

"We found some marble tiles on the Internet, which proved to be absolutely wonderful and in the end, we used them everywhere because they are non-slip," Debbie said. "How often do you find bright shiny marble that isn't slippery, even when wet?"

Asked what advice she would give to another potential selfbuilder, Debbie said: "Get a quantity surveyor!"

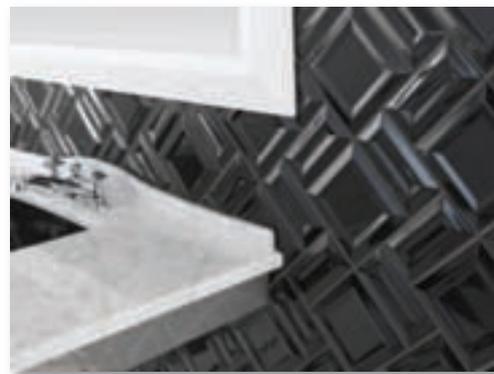
This is something that the Smiths had failed to do, and it was the reason for their considerable overspend.

"We didn't cost in everything from the beginning the way that we should have," explained Jack. "We didn't really build to a budget, so the project was more expensive than it could have been. If you get a quantity surveyor, you would immediately have a better idea of how much money is likely to be involved."

Despite the fact that they exceeded their original budget, and maybe even upset the occasional neighbour, the Smiths are more than happy with how their build went and by the end-product of their labours – a modern neo-Georgian home. They would most definitely do it all again.



1



2

3



## Interior inspiration: Wall and floor tiles

When you're choosing tiles for your new or existing kitchen or bathroom, whether you choose modern or traditional style tiles to complement a new or period home, be inspired by our choice of the latest colours and styles for 2013

If you're looking to create a backdrop that adds genuine 'wow' to your bathroom and makes an opulent and aspirational statement that's totally individual to you, consider **Imperial Bathrooms' (1-6)** prestigious new ranges of wall and floor tiles. Created by combining the latest styles and trends, these new collections reflect both classical and contemporary designs, include the outstanding antique crackle-glaze wall tiles. **Surface Tiles' (7)** Patchwork collection have a muted colour palette, combined with 27 carefully produced patterns, breathing new life into this familiar and well-loved style.

**1. New England floor tiles** in Champagne. Also available in Emerald Slate, Chestnut and Nero, these 13 x 52cm porcelain tiles combine strength and durability with the appeal of a traditional aesthetic to create a truly artisan and handmade effect. Price: £75 per box – 0.54m<sup>2</sup>. **Enq. 107**

**2. Plaza wall tiles** are all about glamour, an opulent re-imagining of the Golden Era of the 1920s. All tiles are available in four colours: White, Cream Haze, Grey Ecru and Midnight Black and offer a choice of smooth or relief

border. 15 x 15cm £50 per box – 0.5m<sup>2</sup>; 7.5 x 15cm £47.50 per box – 0.5m<sup>2</sup>; 5 x 15cm Dado £7.50 each; 2 x 15cm Border £5 each. **Enq. 108**

**3.** Pictured are **Elizabethan floor tiles** in 30 x 30cm Chalk and 3.5 x 3.5mm Charcoal. Other colours include Taupe and Verde, available in varying sizes, together with inset mosaics. Price: Chalk: £85 per box – 1.35m<sup>2</sup>. Octagonal Mosaic insert Charcoal £2 each. **Enq. 109**

**4.** Imperial's **Tudor Mosaic range** is pictured here – a stunning design pattern created using 30 x 30cm Taupe/Chalk Mosaic tiles. These are sold in sheets for ease of preparation and installation. Price: £40 – sold by the sheet. **Enq. 110**

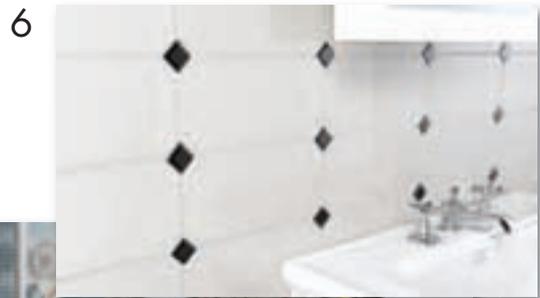
**5.** Specifying wall tiles from the **Edwardian range** is a distinctive way to capture all the essential elements of a period home in a single ceramic tile collection. All tiles are available in White, Rose and Verdi. 30 x 60cm £60-70 per box – 1.08m<sup>2</sup>; 30 x 60cm Panel Tile £70 per box – 0.9m<sup>2</sup>; 1.5 x 60cm Corner Profile Strip

£25 each; 1.5 x 1.5cm Corner Cap £15 each. **Enq. 111**

**6.** The **Georgian wall tile collection** can achieve an exquisitely simple look created by teaming main background tiles with feature tiles. Octagonal, cappings, corners and leaf decoration tiles are each available in four colours: White, Linen, Mauve and English Ecru. A Midnight Black capping is also available. 13 x 26cm Octagonal £45 per box – 0.49m<sup>2</sup>; 5.5 x 26cm Capping £15 each; 6 x 26cm Leaf Decoration £15 each; 5.5 x 2.5cm Corner £15 each. **Enq. 112**

**7.** Patchwork was identified as a key trend by Surface Tiles in their Emerging Trends workshop last November. One of the finest examples of this look is **Azulej** by Patricia Urquiola. Inspired by traditional Victorian encaustic floor tiles, Urquiola updates the look by printing designs directly onto porcelain tiles. Tiles measure 20 x 20cm and are sold in multiple patterns for a unique and random effect, or in single designs for a more measured approach.

**Enq. 113**



4



5



7

## Wareham & Wareham



Celebrating 25 years of tiling experience, an independent family business specialising in high quality bathrooms, tiles and stone. Wareham & Wareham offers a bespoke bathroom design service with installation as well as trade discount for self builds. Their supplier portfolio ranges can assist architects, designers, builders and developers in sourcing products that are environmentally sustainable and account towards LEED. Proud to be shortlisted for the KBB 2013 Awards

for Mystery Shopper Bathroom Customer Service of the Year, they welcome customers to visit their showroom for in house advice.

Tel: 01284 702032 [www.warehamandwareham.co.uk](http://www.warehamandwareham.co.uk)

Enq. 114

## Connect with Selfbuilder & Homemaker online

The Selfbuilder & Homemaker interactive news blog is regularly updated with the latest information relating to self building across the UK.

Also accessible from mobiles and tablets, the blog is available any time, anywhere.

Keeping up to date with the most recent news is even easier when you subscribe to our daily digest email, a summary of the latest stories straight to your inbox.



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Floor Tile:Frame\_Carpet

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**SURFACE**

Enq. 115

# Breathe easy

By Martin Dootson, market development manager at Polypipe Home Solutions



HEAT RECOVERY VENTILATION BOX

Many selfbuilders will no doubt be asking themselves what is the right ventilation solution for their project, and many considerations must be taken into account. For example, what will the system be used for, what is an acceptable level of energy efficiency and what about aesthetics?

The past few years have seen advancements in ventilation technology, driven primarily by changes to Building Regulations and other government legislation such as the Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH), which put greater demands on air tightness in new builds.

With modern homes in the UK losing up to 25 per cent of heat due to uncontrolled ventilation and air leakage, and older properties susceptible to losing even more than that, it's little wonder why Building Regulations are becoming more stringent and ventilation is high on the checklist of considerations for selfbuilders.

There are plenty of options when it comes to ventilation, from trickle ventilation to extraction fans and mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR). However with trickle ventilators, as seen in windows, often viewed as unsightly by some, and the noise levels of extraction fans in bathrooms simply being unacceptable, a modern, more efficient means of ventilation is often required. This is where MVHR comes into the equation.

## Breathing life into your home

Changes to Approved Document Part F and Part L of the Building Regulations, and the benefits attached to MVHR systems, has helped it see a surge in popularity in recent years.

For many selfbuilders, the look of their dream home plays an integral role in the overall plan-

ning and purchasing activity, however the more savvy selfbuilder is now buying into the functionality and efficiency of building materials as well as aesthetics.

MVHR is now high up on the list for any selfbuilder who wants to achieve a home that is comfortable, efficient and sustainable.

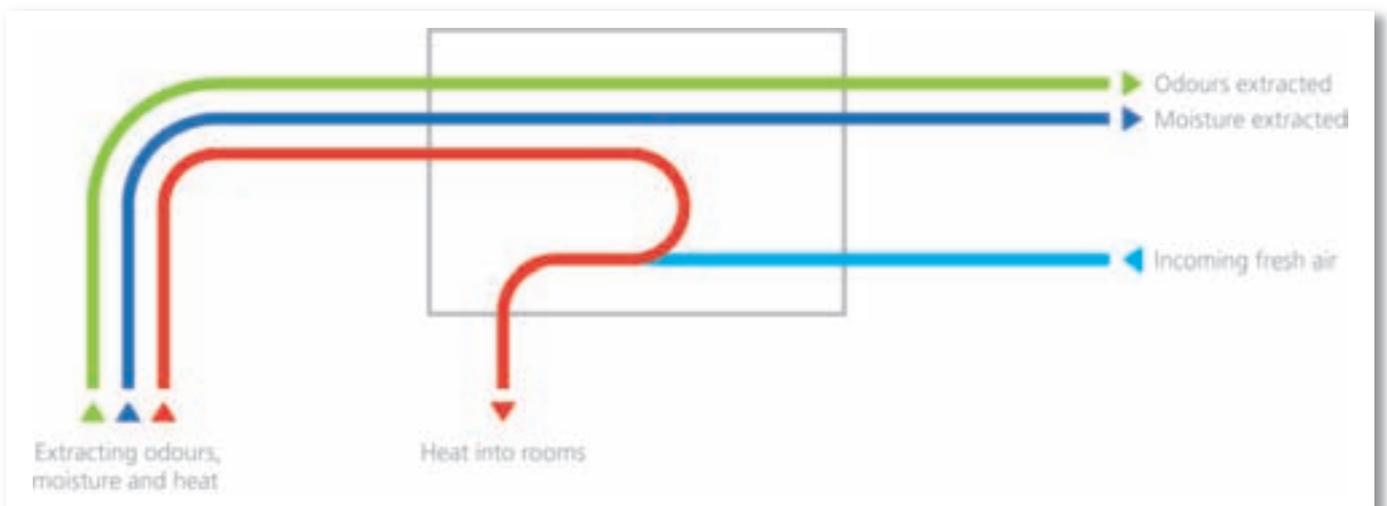
The most efficient systems are centralised whole-house MVHR systems, which incorporate supply and extract ventilation in one system. Warm air is extracted from rooms such as kitchens and bathrooms via ducting through a highly efficient counter flow heat exchanger before being exhausted to the outside. Coupled with this, fresh incoming air is preheated via the exchanger and ducted into habitable rooms.

As well as providing fresher, better quality air, the systems can recover as much as 92 per cent of heat energy, which in turn saves on the energy required for heating a home, ultimately reducing household energy bills.

A further advantage of installing a modern MVHR system in a new home is the ability to utilise the summer by-pass feature, ensuring that during warmer months only cool air is supplied into the home.

In 2010, as part of the revisions to Approved Document F of the Building Regulations, domestic ventilation became 'Notifiable Work', meaning that a suitably qualified person must carry out the work for any new ventilation system in new homes, which includes MVHR.

Installing a MVHR system should not be difficult for a qualified installer, providing that adequate planning has been done before installation. The location of a system does need to satisfy particular requirements however, such



HOW IT WORKS

Mechanical ventilation with heat recovery is now high up on the list for any selfbuilder who wants to achieve a home that is comfortable, efficient and sustainable

as the system being as close as possible to an exterior wall suitable for intake and exhaust ports. Furthermore, there needs to be adequate access to a drain to accept condensed water from the unit.

It is also essential that there is a nearby source of electricity to power the internal fans, and self-builders must also consider the proximity to any existing duct that could be used to distribute fresh air throughout the house. MVHR units are extremely quiet in situ, as well as being lightweight and compact, which makes them ideal for installation in the loft of a property.

It is far easier to plan and install a system in a new build as considerations about where the ducting can go can be designed in from the outset. However, in larger refurbishment projects walls and floors are likely to be exposed down to the framework and smaller diameter, flexible radial ducts lend themselves to awkward or limited access.

Selfbuilders who design in MVHR systems can not only enjoy a highly effective ventilation solution that makes their homes fresher and more comfortable to live in, but can also look forward to energy savings thanks to the low running costs of the system – a typical MVHR system will cost between £15 - £30 pounds per year.

MVHR is one of the best ways to ensure a comfortable temperature and humidity level throughout the home, while also helping to reduce running costs. With so many benefits attached, it's easy to see why more and more selfbuilders can breathe easy when considering what ventilation system is the best for their new home.

Enq. 116



MANIFOLD



MVHR DESIGNED INTO A LIVING ROOM

## Polypipe Ventilation



Polypipe Ventilation has re-launched its System and Product Selector, packed with the latest products and technical information on their full range of market leading energy-saving domestic and light commercial ventilation systems. The catalogue is designed as a comprehensive guide to assist distributors, specifiers, developers, installers and engineers in the specification of ventilation systems that meet Building Regulations and save time and money on-site. Clear and concise selector tables help the customer choose which ventilation technology is best suited ranging from basic intermittent extract ventilation to whole house Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR) systems.

Enq. 117

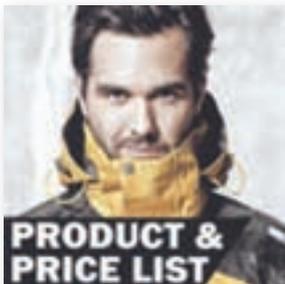
## Wienerberger



Wienerberger, the provider of wall, roof and landscaping innovations, has been named as the winner in the Most Effective Mobile Application – B2B category at the annual Effective Mobile Marketing Awards. The win recognises the company's Brick Selector App, which was launched earlier this year and developed by Sync Interactive with Wienerberger, and is just one of many investments Wienerberger is committing to for the benefit of its customers. The judges described the Brick Selector App as "a beautiful piece of mobile content", and praised Wienerberger and Sync Interactive for "the development of a gorgeous app, which is a joy to use on both phone and tablet."

Enq. 118

## Snickers



This full colour brochure is now available free to discerning professional tradesmen and women. The new Snickers Product and Price Catalogue is now available with loads of new garments and accessories for working effectively wherever you are on-site – whatever your trade. The proof of Snickers' quality and innovation can be seen in every garment – the sign of a company that knows what it takes to get the job done. Whatever the task, whatever the season, the Snickers

Workwear System provides the ultimate solution to make every man and woman's workday easier and safer. So get to know the cutting-edge range from Snickers Workwear...in every stitch, it's miles better.

Enq. 119

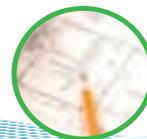
## IronmongeryDirect



IronmongeryDirect's new catalogue is out now and is packed with the UK's biggest range of door and window hardware products at outstanding value. Three new security brands exclusive to IronmongeryDirect have been added; Project, Altro and A-Spec ranges offer locks to cover light duty low use projects through to architectural specification heavy duty locks ideal for high usage levels such as in public buildings, schools and hospitals. The locks incorporate the patented Easi-T function, which offers an easy latch reversal system without having to undo the lock case. All products in the range are covered by a 10 year guarantee.

Enq. 120

# Whole House Ventilation with Heat Recovery...



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**www.regavent.co.uk**



Enq. 121

# Editor's focus

## HOPPINGS

FDC Homes successfully used two Q-Clad profiles to clad the elevations of properties on their DeHavillands development in Kent. In general, Q-Clad rebated sawn feather was used horizontally and other areas (as pictured) were vertically clad with Q-Clad secret fix tongue and grooved shiplap cladding.

Enq. 122



## LANDY VENT

Eccostove is an innovative new concept in woodburning technology using silicon carbide to create energy-efficient combustion providing whole house, supplementary heat. The Eccostove is 100 per cent British-made and can be used as a slow heat release appliance or a traditional appliance. The construction of the stove is designed to absorb heat readily then release it slowly. The Eccostove is capable of whole house heating and emits heat evenly over a much larger area than traditional stoves.

Enq. 123



## POLYPOOL

Polypool swimming pool panels have the highest level of insulation on the market. This reduces the energy loss in the swimming pool and results in lower running costs for the client as well as being environmentally friendly. Following changes to the Part L Building Regulations in 2010, insulation is now required for all indoor swimming pools in the UK. The Polypool panels meet, and in fact exceed, these requirements and have manufactured to this standard for 20 years. The panels are easy to install with a cam-locking system and have smaller backfill requirements in comparison to conventional pools, making them perfect for a DIY project.

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Continued on page 60...

## Ancon



Less than a month after receiving the 2012 Queen's Award for Innovation from the Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire, Ancon has been announced winner of yet another innovation award. Ancon's latest success comes in the 2012 Build It Awards, where the TeploTie low thermal conductivity basalt fibre wall tie was voted 'Best Innovation in Insulation'. The TeploTie is the most thermally efficient wall tie on the market, and has already been used in a number of prestigious low-

energy projects, including the first certified Passivhaus to use traditional masonry cavity construction.

Tel: 01142 381352 [www.ancon.co.uk](http://www.ancon.co.uk)

Enq. 125

## Dickies



Dickies the internationally renowned workwear brand celebrated a successful turnout as Rupert Cox, the chief executive of Somerset Chamber of Commerce officially opened the refurbished store on Saturday 24 November in Second Avenue, Westfield Trading Estate in Midsomer Norton. Maurice Morton, sales & marketing director at Dickies commented: "We had a great turnout on the day, we gave away goodie bags. My thanks goes to all who turned up especially to

Rupert Cox for officially opening the refurbished store." The refit gives Dickies the opportunity to showcase the wider product range supported by floor to ceiling lifestyle graphics.

Enq. 126



## Einhell UK

Einhell UK is pleased to launch its new 2013 tool range, which includes the latest innovations in power tools and garden equipment. The latest tools have been stringently designed by German technicians with almost 50 years of experience in developing quality tools for both the trade and for use in the home.

The 2013 range includes many new high performance products including the new powerful 18v Cordless Hammer Drill;

the new trade performance Double Bevel Mitre Saws and the innovative new Circular Hand Saw. The improvements of the Einhell range for 2013 is a huge leap in terms of performance and design while still maintaining emphasis on value for money for customers.

The latest Einhell range is all you will need to do any DIY task and is still affordable to ensure you get the job done. All products are backed up with a two year warranty and complete after sales service including a customer service centre and a 24 hour online spares and accessories facility to purchase additional parts for your Einhell machine - including blades, sanding sheets, helmets for use with other branded products.

Tel: 0151 649 1506 [www.einhell.co.uk](http://www.einhell.co.uk)

Enq. 127

## Everbuild Building Products Ltd



Made to the original Feb formula, FebSET45 – magnesia phosphate high strength repair mortar – is back on the market and is even better than ever! Everbuild Building Products Ltd, the UK and Ireland's largest independent manufacturer of sealants, adhesives and building chemicals, acquired the Feb brand in 2009 and have seen it grow from strength to strength while still ensuring that they uphold the traditional Feb values that customers have long since known, used and trusted. What

really sets FebSET45 apart is its extremely high early strength, making it a must have product for quick and seamless concrete repair.

Tel: 0113 240 3456 [www.feb.uk.com](http://www.feb.uk.com)

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## Lakes Bathrooms



Shower specialist, Lakes Bathrooms, has launched a new, digital 'Product Finder' to make it quicker and easier to locate the ideal shower enclosure, or associated bathroom products. The online search system is now live and aids rapid review of the 200 plus products in the four collections by Lakes Bathrooms. Hosted on the Lakes Bathrooms web page, the new Product Finder provides a choice of ways to find the ideal item and short-cuts viewers straight to full and detailed

descriptions of the most appropriate products, showing photos, dimensions, adjustment figures and complementary products to consider.

Tel: 01684 853870 [www.lakesbathrooms.co.uk](http://www.lakesbathrooms.co.uk)

Enq. 129

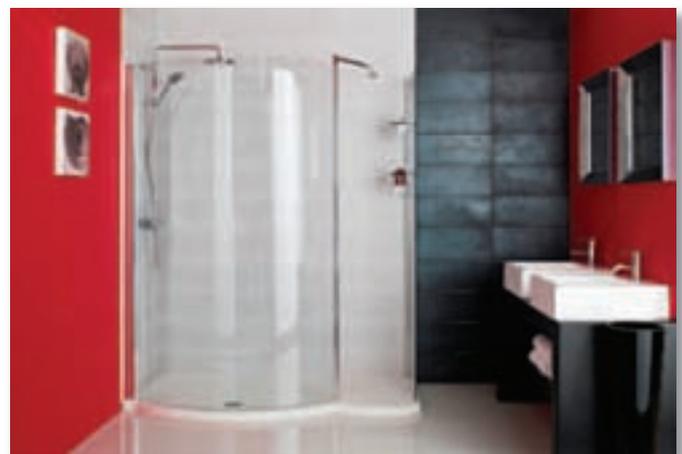
# Indulgent bathroom trends

Over recent years we have seen the bathroom go through a massive transformation and it has become the place we retreat to, for relaxation and to unwind in. David Osborne, managing director of market leading shower manufacturer **Roman Limited**, and online homewares company, **Roman at Home**, looks at the bathroom and the key showering trends now available to help you create your own bathroom sanctuary...

As a shower designer and manufacturer, a real trend that we have seen emerge over recent years, is creating a hotel inspired bathroom space. More of us are now experiencing luxury showering and bathing in hotels, with indulgent weekends away and luxury holidays overseas. This is inspiring us to recreate these designs in our own bathrooms. It has encouraged a real trend towards boutique hotel inspired bathrooms, and there are a range of products available that can create the feeling of hotel chic in your own home.

### The showering space

Frameless enclosures, with clear thick glass (at least 10mm), are the key style for the shower enclosure. These are perfect for those with a larger bathroom. If you have less space, or really want to create a spa experience, then wetrooms are the perfect choice. You can choose between walk-in style enclosures or wetroom panels, depending on your available space and personal taste. One of the key trends becoming more and more popular is teaming the enclosure, wetroom panel or walk-in with a low level tray. These are designed so they can be installed to sit flush with the floor – to give a simulated wetroom look, with the ease of installation associated with a shower tray.



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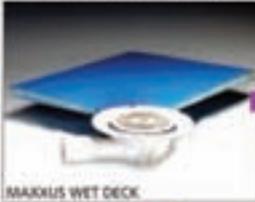
We have seen curved glass enclosures, and in particular curved glass walk-ins becoming increasingly sought-after. Where homes have multiple bathrooms, an increasingly popular choice is to remove the bath from one of the bathrooms and replace it with a bath replacement walk-in enclosure, featuring sweeping curved glass. This gives your bathroom a spacious and stylish finish and can usually be installed with a low-level shower tray, for a minimalist wetroom inspired finish.

When it comes to picking the shower tray, as mentioned previously, low level trays are the key trend to achieve that simulated wetroom look.

wetrooms wetrooms wetrooms wetrooms wetrooms wetrooms wetrooms

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[www.wetroominnovations.com](http://www.wetroominnovations.com) 01629 815500

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Enq. 130



ROMAN SCULPTURES CORNER PANEL ARE IDEAL FOR A TRUE WETROOM SITUATION, THE CORNER PANEL FEATURES 10MM THICK TOUGHENED GLASS WITH MINIMAL FRAMING. AVAILABLE IN 800, 900, 1,000 & 1,200MM WIDTH FITTINGS. PRICES START FROM £474.85 INC VAT. THE ROMAN INFINITY TRAY, WHICH CAN BE INSTALLED STRAIGHT TO JOISTS, IS AVAILABLE IN A RECTANGLE AND A QUADRANT SHAPE TO SUIT STANDARD FOOTPRINTS. PRICES START FROM £345 INC VAT

However to keep styling as minimalist as possible, there are shower trays available where the waste is completely disguised. Our Infinity Shower Trays are manufactured from a solid surface material, are only 40mm in height and can be installed down to joists, so that when tiled, level access is achieved. What makes our design stand out is the waste cover, which is manufactured from the same material as the tray, to give a seamless finish for a true minimalist wetroom simulation.

When choosing the actual shower head, multi-function, with a choice of two shower heads and multi-spray options, has become popular. The drench head gives a luxurious rainfall effect showering experience, while the multi-mode hand shower offers indulgent massage settings. The riser rail means the shower is height adjustable, making it perfect for the whole family, while the hand shower is also practical for easy cleaning.

#### The finishing touches

To complete the look and finish of your bathroom, or alternatively if you would like an instant, affordable update, then bathroom accessories could be the key. In line with creating a boutique-style space, stylish bathroom storage is essential to keep the bathroom minimal and clutter free. There is such a wide range to choose from, but natural wooden bathroom accessories made from sustainable materials, such as bamboo, have become increasingly widespread. This is because they blend perfectly into a range of bathroom settings and likewise offer a spa inspired finish, as well as being environmentally friendly.

If you are working with a smaller bathroom space, then look for clever space saving storage ideas. Under-sink cupboards can be a great way of adding storage in an often unused space, as well as disguising unattractive pedestals. We would always recommend including a good quality shower basket in your showering area, to keep essential bottles close at hand, while keeping the space looking clutter-free. Choose one

which carries a good transparent guarantee as the basket will be exposed to water and steam on a daily basis, so this will ensure it is fit for purpose and will stay looking like new for years to come. To complete the hotel look, be sure to add some nice fluffy towels and bath robes. Then you can lock yourself away in your very own spa like retreat.

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Enq. 132

## JB Kind



Whether it's an innovative, contemporary or classic door design you are after, you will be able to find it in JB Kind's new 2013 brochure. With 22 new design additions and more than 170 door styles, JB Kind's superb quality products and undeniable value, ensures you will be able to find something to fit your design theme and budget. Be inspired by Simply Oak, surprised by Inspiration and swept away by River Oak, while Walnut Flush is sure to raise your temperature.

Don't forget, if it's individually tailored doors you would like, JB Kind can also create affordable bespoke solutions.

Tel: 01283 554197 [www.jbkind.com](http://www.jbkind.com)

Enq. 133

## Garador



With the continued popularity of timber style doors and windows, Garador has noted the resurgence in the popularity of its maintenance-free timber-effect finishes. Simon Hipgrave, managing director of Garador, explains: "Timber is a popular choice for garage doors; and its natural look can be achieved with a foil-coated timber-effect finish. This affordable option makes it possible to achieve the natural appearance of timber while retaining the cost and maintenance

advantages of a steel door. Needless to say, a maintenance-free garage door is also particularly popular through these cold winter months!"

Tel: 01935 443722 [www.garador.co.uk](http://www.garador.co.uk)

Enq. 134



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Enq. 135

january/february 2013

# Innovative Products of 2012 Supplement





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Enq. 301

# CLEARVIEW STOVES

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Choose from our many styles in either all wood or aluminium clad options.

Enq. 314



Clearview Stoves is the UK's leading manufacturer of exceptional woodburning stoves, considered by many to be the finest in the world. Since 1987 their skilled workers have been producing a range of highly efficient, simple to use stoves, that provide wonderful views of the flames behind glass that remains crystal clear. There are eight stoves available in six colours and various styles to suit all situations from the modern to the traditional. The company cares passionately about the environment and believes wood is the perfect fuel. A wood fire radiates a feeling of well being, the flicker of flames making it a magical place to relax plus wood enables you to take control of your heating, never again worrying about power failures or the rising cost of oil.

Enq. 302



The slimmest of meeting rails preferred by customers and local planners is just 36mm. Clever profile design and bonded glass to the sash gives incredible strength. More glass area, less frame and is close to the original wooden box sash window look, allowing better thermal performance. Within the meeting rail is a radical box and 'T' design, which resists deflection or bow.

Clearview's Alumatherm design is a culmination of over 50 years experience in aluminium sash windows and continuous research and development. More key features include a retractable parting bead (UK first) and 45° Puttyline external sash finish, all replicating the original box sash window look. Alumatherm... as authentic as it gets.

Enq. 312



This model 71 spiral staircase from Complete Stair Systems was supplied to a customer to give them access to a bedroom upstairs.

The customer opted for Oak treads and handrail with stainless steel spindles, newel posts and central column – on the upper floor. Complete Stair Systems also provided matching landing balustrade.

The treads are 40mm thick, which gives this spiral a lovely solid feel and with a varnish finish it has a real shine to it too.

The overall diameter of this system is 1.5m and the customer liked it so much she decided to have a second identical spiral going up to another bedroom in the house!

Enq. 309



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Enq. 303



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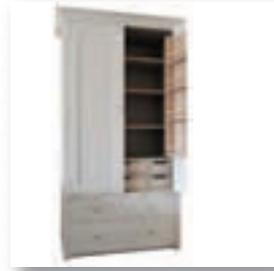


The new range of power flue gas fires **CVO** features contemporary design, easy installation, up to 90 per cent energy efficiency and operated by wireless remote control with thermostatic function.

There is no need for expensive flue systems as the unit operates by either 32mm or 54mm pipes with a maximum length of 15m. These can be routed in multiple directions even under the unit. By using small pipes the added benefit is that there is only a small disc shaped outlet on the wall or roof. Full installation kits are available to buy with the unit.

There are many installation options including corner of room, against a wall or centrally located with the pipes going under the floor if required.

Enq. 311



This Suffolk full height larder from **Kit Stone** is the modern solution to the pantry.

Hand painted in Dove Grey, it not only looks stunning, but is extremely practical, concealing a vast volume of storage space.

In the top half, there are four adjustable shelves, above sturdy ash drawer boxes, designed to hold smaller items.

Handy spice racks are concealed on the inside of the doors.

At the base, there are two large pan drawers, designed to hold heavier items such as pots and pans. The Suffolk larder is available in single, double and curved options.

Enq. 310



Keeping organised is an essential part of running a smooth and efficient project. For the last 50 years professionals have been using **Normid** products to do just that and now Normid has released a version just for selfbuilders.

The PRO DUO wall bracket takes 100-200 plans between the two Planholders.

The bracket is fixed to a wall and the Planholders are each hung on an individual pin meaning they can swivel to make drawings simple to view.

If you want an organised and efficient build then you'll need to do as the professionals do and use a Normid PRO DUO system.

Enq. 305



Imagine living in a home, without condensation, draughty trickle-vents or noisy extractor fans.

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For complete off-gas heating solutions, air to water heat pumps are also available from **Total Home Environment**. See them at Ecobuild and Homebuilding & Renovating Shows in March.

Enq. 315

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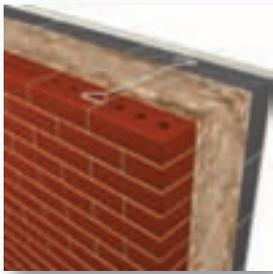


Because  **Vaillant** thinks ahead.

Reader Enquiry  
**307**

\*Saving based on a typical house with 20,000 kilowatt hours total heating requirement per year. Saving possible when replacing SEDBUK G rated appliance at 65% efficiency with high efficiency ecoTEC boiler with weather compensating controls.

\*\*5-year guarantee on ecoTEC pro. Terms and conditions apply, see online for details.



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Glass mineral wool also requires less overall energy to manufacture.

Enq. 313



**Westwind Oak Buildings** has become delivery partners of the Kingspan TEK Building System, allowing them to design and deliver the Kingspan TEK structural insulated panels (SIPs) to fit on the Westwind frames.

Clients now have the option of a dry shell, super insulated and air-tight building, direct from Westwind Oak.

Westwind Oak can design the oak frame and SIPs panels concurrently, so their clients can have the comfort of knowing that the two building systems fit perfectly together.

The total erection time for frame and panels can be as little as three weeks, reducing the overall build time, therefore saving money.

Enq. 303



**UK Oak Doors** specialises in high quality solid oak doors and accessories at extremely competitive prices.

All property styles are catered for: contemporary, period, rustic or traditional, whatever style home you have there will be oak doors to suit. Doors are a critical part of every home's appearance so you need to consider your options carefully.

Oak is durable and ages well, when you buy oak doors you are making an investment in your home. All UK Oak Doors' solid oak doors are built using traditional methods, so you know that they are built to last. You can also rest assured that they are crafted only from sustainable PEFC certified oak. By providing doors unfinished they allow you to individualise the final finish to suit your home.

Enq. 306



**Aarrow Stoves** offers an economical, reliable and sustainable heating option for individuals wanting to use wood or solid fuel as an alternative to oil and gas. Aarrow has been at the forefront of stove design technologies and innovations for 30 years, most recently launching its Flexifuel System, which allows stove users to burn both wood and solid fuels without compromising on heat or efficiencies. Offering traditional and more contemporary designs, with outputs ranging from 4 to 11kW and many models reaching efficiencies of over 80 per cent while still being easily controlled, the Aarrow range is a must see. All Aarrow stoves, from free-standing to inset cassette stoves come with a lifetime guarantee on the stove body as standard. We are sure you will find a stove to suit your home.

Enq. 308



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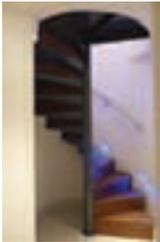




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**313**

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## Schueco Jansen



Architects, contractors and home-owners based in and around London now have easy access to actual examples of Schueco's aluminium and steel systems following the opening of Schueco UK's first London Showroom in the Business Design Centre, Islington. Located in the company's Technical Services London Office, the showroom contains displays of Schueco FW 50+ façade systems, AWS windows (including those with Tip-Tronic automatic operation), ADS doors and ASS sliding/folding doors, as well as Schueco Jansen steel systems such as Jansen Arte, a highly insulated renovation window. The technical services provided by the office are aimed mainly, but not exclusively, at architects.

Enq. 136

## Connect with Selfbuilder & Homemaker online

Newly launched is the Selfbuilder & Homemaker Pinterest account; a one stop source of inspiration for adding all the elements to your build that make it your home, from essential fixtures to the final decorative touches.

One of the latest social media sensations, Pinterest allows you to browse pinboards, discover new things and get inspiration from people who share your interests, as well as create your own boards so you may organise and share all the beautiful things you find on the web.



[ Visit [pinterest.com/selfbuildhome/](https://www.pinterest.com/selfbuildhome/) to follow us! ]

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Sponsored by the Eco Technology Show and in association with the British Homes Awards and the Building Centre, netMAGevents is delighted to announce a networking event to be held at the Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London. Join us on the evening of Thursday 28th February 2013, 18.30 - 21.30.

Please contact Lesley Mayo on [lesley@netmagmedia.eu](mailto:lesley@netmagmedia.eu) for further details, and for tickets please visit <http://netmagevents.eventbrite.co.uk/>



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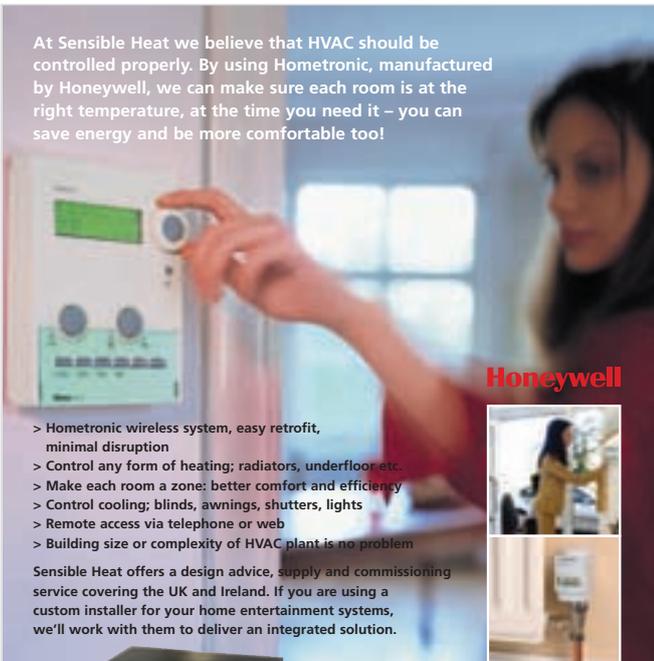
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Enq. 147

# Make your home sustainable and more eco-friendly at Ecobuild

The countdown to Ecobuild 2013 has begun. The world's biggest event for sustainable design, construction and the built environment takes place 5-7 March 2013 at London's ExCeL

Perfect for those designing and building self sustaining, low carbon homes and those seeking inspiration for their first self build, Ecobuild 2013 will bring together thousands of green products and solutions as well as expert education and advice under one roof. Selfbuilders and homemakers will learn all they need to know about making a striking eco-friendly and sustainable home.

## Beautiful eco interiors

Selfbuilders can check out the latest innovations to help create beautiful eco interiors, which not only reflect the environmental aspirations of a project, but also make the most of sustainable materials at Ecobuild 2013 – from innovative, design-driven bathroom and kitchen solutions, to lighting, wall coverings, tiles and flooring.

When it comes to sustainable flooring, visitors to Ecobuild will meet a range of top suppliers including Interface, Desso, Modulyss and Flowcrete. Modulyss will be exhibiting its Alternative100 carpet tiles (pictured), which use 100 per cent recycled yarn, while Interface will showcase two of its most sustainable products to date at Ecobuild 2013. Earlier this year, Interface launched Fotosfera, the industry's first ever truly commercial carpet tile made from plant (or bio) based nylon.

Also during the show, Desso will be introducing its latest carpet tiles containing 100 per cent regenerated nylon (ECONYL® yarn), alongside the unveiling of a DESSO Light Reflection Master® – an entirely new carpet collection that is able to reduce lighting energy costs.

For selfbuilders and homemakers looking to source lighting solutions, The Light Box is a brand new feature for Ecobuild 2013, which will showcase the very best energy efficient lighting products from leading manufacturers.

*Continued on page 41...*



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Enq. 148

## Ancon

ecobuild stand no N1110



2012 Queen's Award Winner, Ancon, has chosen Ecobuild to showcase the latest innovative structural fixing solutions that are helping to change the way that sustainable low energy buildings are designed and constructed. Solutions on show will include low thermal conductivity cavity wall ties, such as the Ancon TeploTie, an innovative basalt-fibre tie used in many groundbreaking low-energy developments; and new Staifix RT2 275mm, the first high thermal performance Type 2 stainless steel wall tie to enable the use of 150mm wide insulated cavities in multi-storey low energy construction.

Tel: 0114 275 5224 [www.ancon.co.uk](http://www.ancon.co.uk)

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## Collecta

ecobuild stand no N1520



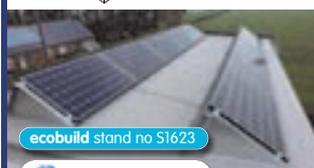
TETRiS®, the eco-friendly structural flooring system will be on display at Collecta's exhibition stand this year. Visitors will be encouraged to walk on the TETRiS® system to experience its super strong benefits, as well as learning how TETRiS® can achieve super low U-values, provide code credits and help speed up build times over traditional beam and concrete block systems. Visit Collecta's stand N1520 at Ecobuild, or find out more at the company website. Alternatively,

download the free Collecta® app and view the TETRiS® installation video now.

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Enq. 151



BUSY ENTRANCE HALL AT LONDON'S EXCEL DURING A PREVIOUS YEAR'S ECOBUILD

### Making the most of renewables

As energy costs continue to rise, selfbuilders should explore the benefits of the latest renewable technologies on show at Ecobuild 2013. Out on the show floor there are dozens of informative attractions and demonstrations to see. New for 2013, The Green Deal Terrace will provide a comprehensive advice clinic set up to help visitors understand the ramifications from the government's showcase policy.

As government support for renewable heat progresses, Ecobuild's Renewable Heat Focus feature returns for 2013 to de-mystify and highlight the opportunities available through the coalition's Renewable Heat Incentive scheme (RHI).

Ecobuild 2013 will represent a vast range of innovative solar solutions from on-roof, to semi-integrated to fully roof-integrated products, and feature the latest technologies from leading manufacturers. Selfbuilders can also learn about the future of energy at Ecobuild's reinvented Solar Hub. Sponsored by Rexel, this exciting feature will provide a series of free-to-attend talks and presentations, plus one-to-one advice from a range of top industry experts.

You can discover the quickest route to zero carbon in the Building Materials area – a showcase of the latest sustainable construction products and innovative building materials from hundreds of the world's leading manufacturers. This year, Building Materials is also home to exciting new features such as the Future Materials Gallery – a futuristic showcase of the most innovative new materials that will build the future. The big question – what materials will the next generation of architects be using? This area of the event will also house the popular Passivhaus feature and Ecobuild Big Tent Village produced

by the UK Green Building Council.

Visitors to the Fabric First feature will also learn about how to achieve a high performance building fabric which meets existing regulations and also future-proofs against the stringent FEES set out in the 2016 zero carbon homes policy.

### Timber

If you are investigating selfbuilding your timber frame dream home, come to Ecobuild 2013 to hear the latest thinking surrounding the versatility and sustainability credentials of timber, its use in both sustainable design and construction and as a source of renewable energy.

Selfbuilders will see new timber structures, wood windows and doors, glulam and cross laminated timber from the likes of Accoya, Arnold Laver, Ecological Building Systems, Kebony and Russell Timber Systems.

The Timber Research and Development Association's (TRADA) Giraffe Pavilion will feature a busy seminar programme throughout the show as well as act as the meeting point for TRADA's popular timber guided tours around Ecobuild which highlight the latest innovations in timber and timber-related products.

Ecobuild's highly acclaimed conference programme will once again return in association with the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC), bringing together over 1100 industry experts, ministers and VIPs from across the sustainable built environment to inform, educate and inspire.

Sessions of note include *The Green Deal and Eco – how will it deliver?*, *Sustainable design should be irresistible design* and *How far can wood replace concrete and steel?* led by Kieran Long, architecture critic from the Evening Standard.

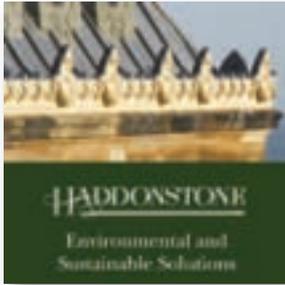
So, if you're looking to build your dream home or have already started the process, get Ecobuild 2013 in your diary! To register for your free ticket, visit [www.ecobuild.co.uk](http://www.ecobuild.co.uk)



MODULYSS CARPET TILES MADE FROM 100% RECYCLED YARN

## Haddonstone

ecobuild stand no S700



Haddonstone, one of the UK's leading manufacturers of landscape ornaments and architectural cast stone, will be launching its Environmental and Sustainable solutions leaflet at this year's Ecobuild, detailing the environmental and cost benefits of using Haddonstone on architectural projects. Previous projects include the restoration of Scarborough Spa, which saw the company awarded the prestigious Green Apple Gold Award (Building Materials) for Environmental Best Practice and Sustainable Development. Haddonstone's dry-cast material and the wet-cast TecStone provide thermal mass benefits while revolutionary TecLite is up to two-thirds lighter than similar Haddonstone pieces.

Enq. 152

## Grundfos

ecobuild stand no N2550



Grundfos Pumps will once again be playing a central role at Ecobuild, which is taking place at the ExCel in London Docklands from 5 to 7 March. The 2013 event is expected to attract in excess of 60,000 visitors, which makes it the world's biggest event for sustainable design, construction and the built environment. Pumps account for 10 per cent of the world's electricity consumption and two thirds of the installed base use 60 per cent more energy than necessary. Visit us at stand

N2550 and find out more about environmental journey for yourself

Tel: 01525 850000 [uk.grundfos.com](http://uk.grundfos.com)

Enq. 153

## Fakro

ecobuild stand no N1530



For Ecobuild 2013, FAKRO GB will be highlighting its extensive range of roof windows, roofing accessories and loft ladders on stand N1530. Among products on display will be the world's most thermally efficient product currently available, the quadruple-glazed FTT U8 Thermo® with a U-value of 0.58W/m<sup>2</sup>K. The company will also be placing heavy emphasis on key aspects of design, which enhance both aesthetic value and functionality. Use of close-grain, knot-free redwood

pine, for example, provides the clearest visual distinction against competitors' products.

Tel: 0845 021 3030 [www.fakro.co.uk](http://www.fakro.co.uk)

Enq. 154

## IKO Plc

ecobuild stand no S1806



IKO Plc will be launching two new pitched roof products at this year's Ecobuild exhibition at ExCel in London, 5 – 7 March. They have been added to IKO's range of sustainable roof engineering concepts, which already includes green roof systems, photovoltaic energy roof systems and heat reflective membranes. IKOslate is a composite roof tile manufactured from mineral reinforced, 99 per cent recycled and re-engineered materials with any offcuts 100 per cent recyclable.

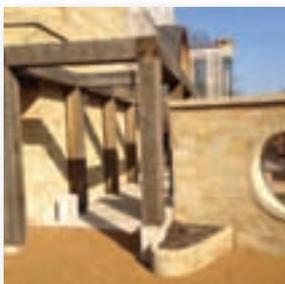
Its unique structure gives it superior strength and makes it easier to handle and install.

Tel: 01380 730 668 [www.ikogroup.co.uk](http://www.ikogroup.co.uk)

Enq. 155

## Ronacrete

ecobuild stand no S2063



Downley House is a unique self build property in the South Downs National Park. Ronacrete Approved Contractor, PRC Landscapes, was employed to carry out groundworks and landscaping on the three acre site, including application of RonaDeck Resin Bound Surfacing. The SuDS compliant two-part aggregate system was applied to 650 sq m of a suitable macadam substrate including patios, the driveway and turning circle. The aggregate was Harvest Crunch, a blend of naturally

coloured aggregates, this colour will not change over time because the resin does not degrade when exposed to Ultra Violet light.

Tel: 01279 638700 [www.ronacrete.co.uk](http://www.ronacrete.co.uk)

Enq. 156

## Johnson & Starley

ecobuild stand no N2000



'Sustainable Solutions Under one Roof' will be the theme of Johnson & Starley's participation at Ecobuild 2013. The company will highlight its comprehensive range of highly energy efficient heating and ventilation solutions for residential properties. The new super-efficient QuanTec condensing combi boiler with integral passive flue gas heat recovery will be a major attraction for Ecobuild visitors, alongside this will be the company's latest innovations in high efficiency Warm Air Heating. Also on show will be Gencair HPT air to water heat pumps, developed for comfort heating when integrated within traditional residential heating systems.

Enq. 157

## Stelrad

ecobuild stand no N2720



Stelrad is seeing hugely increased interest in its new Radical radiators, which offer comfortable warmth up to 8 per cent more quickly.

They warm up 23 per cent more quickly than a traditional radiator, offer increased radiant heat from the front panel – 50 per cent in fact, and offer time savings on installation and draining down. Also, over 10 per cent lower heating bills is a great incentive to include these new radiators in a heating system design.

You simply feel warmer, faster – and cheaper. Full details can be found on the website.

Tel: 08708498056 [www.stelrad.com/uk](http://www.stelrad.com/uk)

Enq. 158

## Pyroclassic Fires



Over one million tonnes of wood fuel are burned here every year as consumers realise the benefit of utilising an affordable heating fuel, which is not reliant on electricity or gas while also being a low carbon option. A Pyroclassic fire is one of the cleanest, most efficient wood fires you can buy. Pyroclassic's eye-catching and unconventional design sets it apart from the rest of the wood burners on the market. Its exterior powder coated panels are available in 100 different colours and, once installed, if you are updating your décor or fancy something different, it is easy to change the colour of the interchangeable exterior panels.

[info@pyroclassic.co.uk](mailto:info@pyroclassic.co.uk) [www.pyroclassic.co.uk](http://www.pyroclassic.co.uk)

Enq. 159



**MORE THAN JUST A STOVE!**

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- ⊗ Burns wood logs.
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- ⊗ 25% of stored heat still released after 12hrs [model 678 shown above].
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- ⊗ All colour options available.

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Enq. 160

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- Barn Conversions
- Conservatories
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A COMPLETE FLOORING SOLUTION

Enq. 161

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*Discounts for sustainability and energy efficiency*

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Building Society

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[www.ecology.co.uk](http://www.ecology.co.uk)

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE. Our current Standard Variable Rate is 4.90%. The overall cost for comparison is 5.1% APR. Rates correct at date of going to print (31 January 2013). An early repayment charge may be payable if you repay all or part of your mortgage within the first two years. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority (registration number 162090).

Ecology Building Society, 7 Belton Road, Silsden, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD20 0EE

Enq. 162

# Schueco folding doors. Just opening one tells you all you need to know



When you slide open a Schueco aluminium folding door, you can just feel the quality. Precision rollers ensure effortless, fingertip operation and yet multi-point locking means security is never compromised. Folded back into a neat stack to left or right, inside or outside, the doors – available in a wide selection of colours and finishes – give a huge clear opening of as much as 95%. When closed, they deliver exceptional levels of thermal insulation and weather-tightness, while flooding your home with light. For beautifully finished doors engineered to look good and to last, year after year, there's really only one choice. [www.schueco.co.uk](http://www.schueco.co.uk)



Green Technology for the Blue Planet  
Clean Energy from Solar and Windows

Reader  
Enquiry

163

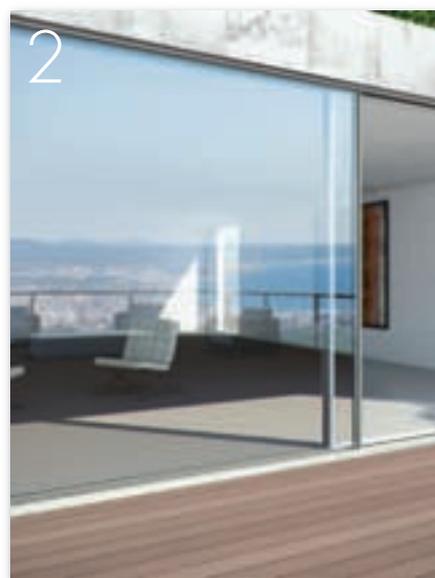
SCHÜCO

# Folding & Sliding Doors Showcase



**1** Indoor/outdoor living is the latest 'grand design' that everyone wants, and for good reason too. **Country Hardwood's** bespoke handcrafted doors can be made in a wide range of designs to match your existing windows, the architectural style of your home, and your own personal vision. So however your dream home looks, Country Hardwood's sliding folding doors are a fantastic way to link your indoor and outdoor living spaces.

**Enq. 164**



**2** The **Schueco ASS 77 PD** motorised 'panoramic' aluminium sliding door is ideal for high-end residential properties. It is able to accommodate very wide openings with two, three or four leaves each up to 3.2 metres wide and 3.5 metres high and offers varying levels of thermal insulation. A key feature is the minimal profile face widths of the central meeting stiles and the fact that the outer frame is completely concealed in the building structure.

**Enq. 165**



**3** For clean lines, maximising glass size and views, **Sunparadise** sliding doors offer a range of beautifully engineered solutions. Their range of aluminium folding doors stand out, with sleek profiles, integrated ironmongery and options for incredible thermal efficiency. The entire Sunparadise range is manufactured in one hi-tech factory under the guidance of experienced engineers.

**Enq. 166**



**4** **Olsen Doors & Windows** has developed the latest in sliding door technology – an all timber corner door with moving post. This pioneering product, already available in an all aluminium system from Olsen's **SUNFLEX** range, enables the whole corner of a building to be opened with single sliding panels up to 3m wide. Timber frames and triple glazed units give a warm and green feel to any home.

**Enq. 167**



**5** **KAT UK**, established in 1998, manufacture bi-folding doors in a choice of PVCu, aluminium or timber and offer a wide range of styles. These can be delivered direct to site on their own vehicles, with over 98 per cent on time and in full delivery record. They have BBA and SBD certification on many of their products and can achieve U-values as low as 0.8 w/m<sup>2</sup>k.

**Enq. 168**



**6** With the increased popularity of oversized sliding doors and windows the development of a suitable fly screen system has been a top priority. **The Flyscreen Company's** Sliding Fly Screen System for panoramic doors and windows brings the garden in to the home without the flying insects. Frames can be custom painted to match door and window frames. A strong PVC coated fibreglass mesh keeps flying insects out and allows light in, without restricting views. Opening and closing the panes is easy with high quality rollers and ball bearings.

**Enq. 169**

*Continued on page 49...*

# Country Hardwood

## Let there be light

With an array of property shows on our TV screens during the past few years, it's hard not to notice that the trend for bi-fold doors has been consistently on the increase. This latest 'grand design' of indoor/outdoor living is no passing whim, as it offers a stylish and effective enhancement to your home and the space around it.

If you are looking to transform a kitchen, living or family room by adding a wall of natural light and provide a seamless connection to your



patio or garden, this can be achieved by using stylish wide opening doors, which will add a contemporary twist to any property.

From distinctive period homes to contemporary new build projects, Country Hardwood has designed and manufactured an extensive range of bespoke hardwood products of the highest quality for architects, builders, property developers and DIY enthusiasts. Their bespoke hand crafted doors are available in a wide range of designs to match your existing windows, the architectural style of your home, and your own personal vision.

For over 10 years, Country Hardwood has worked for clients across the UK, manufacturing unique hand crafted, high quality timber products using the finest materials.

From the centrally located workshop near Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire, Country Hardwood's team of designers and craftsmen create beautiful hardwood windows, doors, roof lanterns, conservatories and orangeries; each one unique to the client.

Consistently evolving to embrace design and



technical changes over the years, Country Hardwood seamlessly combine 21st century technology with traditional materials and highly skilled craftsmanship.

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[www.countryhardwood.com](http://www.countryhardwood.com)

### country hardwood

Specialist manufacturers of bespoke hardwood bi-fold doors, windows, conservatories & orangeries



Country Hardwood is the leading UK manufacturer and installer of the finest folding doors, sliding bi-fold doors, oak bi-fold doors and stormproof doors. Using the highest quality natural wood from sustainable sources, we offer the finest range of beautiful doors, all at affordable prices.

**Sliding Folding Doors** • Full hardwood laminated door leaf sections with solid timber • Manufactured in Sapele, Idigbo or Oak  
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## Schueco Jansen

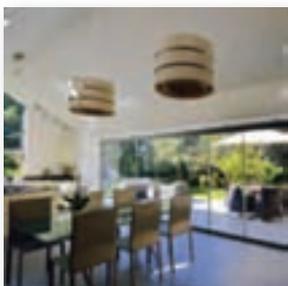


In response to the growing demand for doors with ever larger areas of glass, narrow sight-lines and high levels of insulation, steel systems specialist Schueco Jansen has introduced the Janisol Lift-and-Slide door to provide a complete, cost-effective solution. Available in a wide range of polyester powder coated colours, this new door allows internal and external spaces to merge together to create a single living environment. The advanced design of the thermally insulated steel profiles

enables the door to have a leaf/frame width of only 113.5mm and a meeting stile that is just 95mm wide. Maximum leaf weight is up to 400kg, although an optional additional roller carriage increases this to 600kg.

Enq. 171

## Frameless Glass Curtains



As proof that British inventiveness is still very much alive, Frameless Glass Curtains Ltd (FGC), a UK manufacturer based in Kent, is offering architects and main contractors a totally different take on aluminium glazed sliding/folding doors or 'curtains'. Thanks to a unique design, the company's double-glazed, thermally broken Clearline range has no vertical mullions, resulting in maximum light penetration and totally uninterrupted views to the exterior. Already proven in numerous commercial and domestic projects, the secret of a 'Clearline' installation lies in the unobtrusive PVC bubble gasket sited between the individual curtains (or panels).

Enq. 172



## Kloeber

Kloeber is proud to still be the only timber bi-folding door to achieve Secured by Design status, an accolade it has now held exclusively for the last 12 months. Matt Higgs Kloeber's sales director said, "We are delighted to still have the only Secured by Design timber bi-fold on the market after all this time. This unique selling point gives us a massive advantage over any other folding sliding system in terms of security, design, quality and efficiency". Secured by Design is the only form of national police accreditation for security products and is owned by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). Membership of Secured by Design is no small accomplishment as the products accredited have undergone a wide range of testing; not only for security but for functionality, design, weather tightness and durability.

Kloeber has also undergone an extensive audit covering their manufacturing facility, pricing, ordering and admin systems, procedures and paper trail ensuring that every aspect of every order conforms to the stringent requirements of the scheme.

Tel: 01487 740044 [www.kloeber.co.uk](http://www.kloeber.co.uk)

Enq. 173



# DURATION WINDOWS

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Enq. 174

Q. When is a bi-fold door not a bi-fold door?



A. When it's a folding sliding door  
(When it has more than two panels)

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

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

**Bi-fold door** (noun) An interior door (a door that closes off rooms within a building)  
Meronyms (parts of "bi-fold door"): flexible joint; hinge (a joint that holds two parts together so that one can swing relative to the other)  
**bifold** /bīfōld/ (adjective) 1. Twofold  
**bi** /bī-/ or sometimes before a vowel (prefix) Two, twice, double

The  **Folding Sliding**  
**Door Company**

The Folding Sliding Door Company, specialist manufacturer of folding sliding doors

*Jack of one trade, master of one*

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175

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# Folding & Sliding Doors Showcase



**7** Arbor specialises in the design and manufacture of sliding and folding bifold door systems and have an enviable record of providing excellent quality products throughout the UK. They offer a full bespoke range of doors, windows and related products together with the new E60 bifold door range, which combine the style and performance of the bespoke range in standard sizes and configurations at a lower cost.

**Enq. 176**

**8** Creating a seamless transition between indoors and outdoors, bi-fold doors can transform a living space. **Arden Windows'** range are easily installed and even easier to operate and maintain. With advanced Weatherseal technology their bi-fold doors ensure an uncompromised internal environment. They can now offer the complete folding sliding door range of open in and out door segments and also top and bottom hung systems.

**Enq. 177**

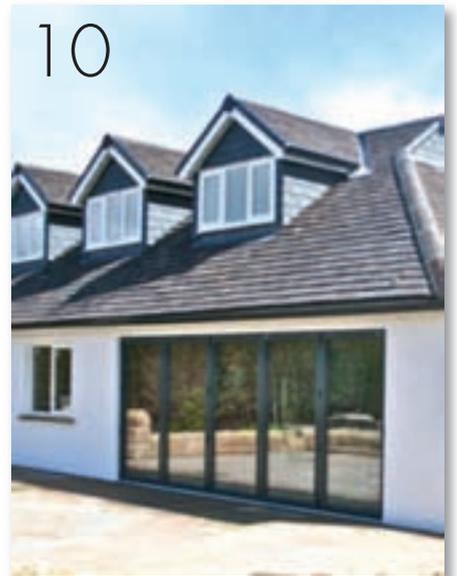


**9** Express Bi-folding Doors create endless opportunities for design and have a 90 per cent clear opening, which turns your outside space into another usable room for the house or business. Their doors come in a choice of over 200 RAL colours, metallic finishes, and woodgrain finishes. As an additional enhancement, Express Bi-folding Doors recommend electric Uniblinds, designed around their bespoke folding door system.

**Enq. 178**

**10** Bi-fold doors have become a recent success story, and **Quickslide** has undertaken the manufacture of 'Smarts Architectural' Visofold series of slide-folding doors to offer its customers the chance to compete in this market with a high quality product. All Visofold profiles feature a polyamide thermal break that enhances the thermal performance of the profile and improves the overall U-value.

**Enq. 179**



**11** Solarlux has brought out the Folding Glass Door SL 97 Wood/Aluminium for passive houses, characterised by very high thermal insulation. They have laminated wood profiles, 96mm in depth, and the additional insulation layer and triple glazing achieve a U-value of 0.80 W/m<sup>2</sup>K. Certified wood from sustainable forests and water-based glazes are consistently pursuing the ecological approach to sustainable construction.

**Enq. 180**

**12** Folding sliding doors are available from **Sunfold Systems** in either aluminium, timber or composite materials. Quality is included in every detail. They've incorporated special features across their range including: effortless opening and closing; slim sightlines for a fuller glazed effect; safety gasket cushioning for finger protection; high security locks; flush and fully weathered track options; and anodised aluminium hinges to help prevent corrosion.

**Enq. 181**



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Enq. 182

## Electrorad



Electrorad supplies an innovative range of electric radiators. There is no need for any pipework or plumbing; each radiator just needs a 13 amp power supply. The radiators look just like regular central heating radiators and supply the same quality of heat. No maintenance or inspections are required. Each radiator has its own room thermostat and programming system ensuring that energy usage is always kept to a minimum and every room is exactly the temperature required. The radiators are rated 100 per cent energy efficient. Being electric, this heating system is fully compatible with all micro-generation and renewable technologies.

Tel: 0844 479 0055 [www.electrorad.co.uk](http://www.electrorad.co.uk)

Enq. 183

## Euroheat



With the take-up of biomass soaring, particularly in the commercial sector, 2012 was a good year for Euroheat. 2013 looks set to offer yet more success for this leading wood-heating specialist, not least due to the introduction of the long awaited domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). A regular at Ecobuild, this year Euroheat will be showcasing its range of boilers and stoves, including the latest in domestic pellet power, the K10, an automatic boiler, which offers outputs

of 10kW – 26kW – perfect for the average-sized family home. To complement its range, Euroheat also supplies a selection of thermal store accumulator tanks and controls.

Enq. 184

## No gravity drainage? ...we have the answer

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Enq. 185

## domestic pump stations

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Enq. 186

# Warm feelings

What's the most important appliance or device in your home? For some people, it's the dishwasher; for others, it's the washing machine. Many would struggle without their TVs, while increasing numbers say that broadband is now essential.

Yet there's a forgotten hero in nearly all of our homes we rely on all the year round but barely registers with us: the humble boiler.

In a recent survey, the overwhelming majority of homeowners (86 per cent) said their boiler is either essential or very important to them, while half said that a boiler breakdown would be the worst thing to happen to them during winter.

But for most of us, the boiler is a forgotten white box that operates behind the scenes.



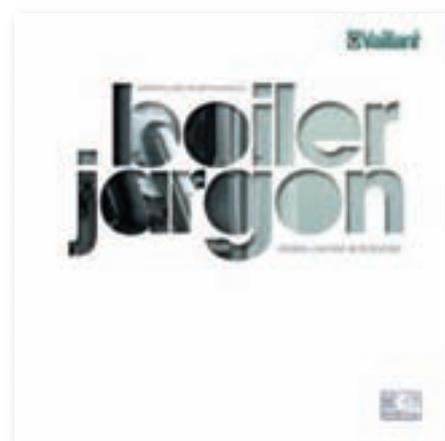
More than half of homeowners surveyed were unable to say what brand of boiler they have, and attitudes towards servicing suggest neglect is common. Three in five confess to not having had their boilers serviced in the last 12 months; one in 10 say they've never had a maintenance check carried out.

Just like your car, boilers should be serviced every year. This will ensure it's operating as it should be and ready to tackle the high demand placed on it during the winter months, as well as making sure it's running efficiently and not costing more to run than is necessary.

Service plans provide peace of mind and prevent the distress of an unexpected bill following a breakdown.

If your boiler is more than 10 years old, or unreliable, it might be time to upgrade to a new model. A modern high efficiency boiler, as well as being more reliable and quieter in operation, can shave as much as 30 per cent off your gas bills.

Vaillant's range of ecoTEC boilers have always been the UK's number one and for the third year running, the entire range of Vaillant domestic boilers has been awarded 18 Which? Best Buy recommendations.



And now Vaillant has produced a plain English guide to boiler jargon to help homeowners better understand their boiler and give simple advice on buying a new model. To get your copy or to find out more about Vaillant ecoTEC contact Vaillant on:

0845 601 0050  
www.vaillantthinksahead.co.uk

Enq. 187

## Ultima Solar



In the past, heating in kitchens and bathrooms has relied very much on the traditional wet central heating radiator, with more recent introductions including stylish towel radiators for the bathroom and plinth heaters in the kitchen. Now, however, you have the option to choose something really modern, really stylish, efficient, silent and instant with the launch of a brand new range of Infrared Heating Panels from Uliima Solar Ltd. With rising fuel prices very much in the news today, the introduction

of this new range also offers an energy-saving solution that will be welcomed by homeowners and everyone involved in the design, specification, sale and installation of kitchen and bathroom products.

Enq. 188

## Amica

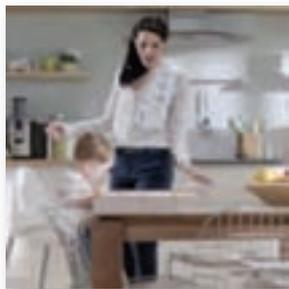


One of Poland's top appliance brands, Amica, is bringing the easiest to use technology to cooking with the introduction of a brand new 7" fully-interactive touch-control, colour screen TFT programmer, the @micaSmart, on the top models from its Platinum oven collection. With web connectivity and a desktop application, ovens that feature @micaSmart are supplied with a memory stick to upload personal recipes and pictures. Users also have the ability to create and view photo albums as

a digital picture show with the programmer becoming a photo frame when not in use. The online portal offers a users' forum and allows them to take part in culinary competitions.

Enq. 189

## Beko



To coincide with the launch of its latest TV advert, Beko plc, one of the UK's leading appliance manufacturers, has updated its UK website to give consumers an even better experience, featuring easier navigation and an integrated look and feel with the brand's on-going marketing initiatives. The new look for the website has been designed with both new and existing customers in mind, to ensure that they can quickly navigate to the product information or page they are seeking.

The cleaner layout features clear visual clues such as product imagery to guide consumers through the site. The website will also host the brand's latest news as well as advice to help customers choose their perfect appliance.

Enq. 190

## Panel Systems



Over 13 million homes in the UK lack adequate loft insulation, a recent survey by the Energy Saving Trust has found. With around 26 per cent of a building's heat lost through its roof, Styroloft is the ideal solution for homeowners looking to increase the energy efficiency of their loft space. Styroloft is an innovative, lightweight loft boarding product, with high insulating properties, which has been developed by Panel Systems, one of the UK's leading suppliers of Styrofoam insulation. The

product is made up of birch plywood bonded to both faces of Styrofoam extruded polystyrene insulation, which helps to reduce heat loss through the loft space, as well as providing a robust surface that can be walked on.

Enq. 191

stand no K175

Q: What's one of the most important things in your life that you can't see?  
A: the AIR you breathe

ecobuild stand no N3325

Ensure the air in YOUR HOME is kept healthy, warm & sustainable.

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# The National Homebuilding and Renovating Show returns from 21-24 March 2012



Britain's biggest self build and renovation event is returning for its 22nd year to the NEC, Birmingham, from 21-24 March 2013 to educate and inspire visitors searching for new and imaginative ways to create their dream home. This year, The National Homebuilding & Renovating Show has 30 pairs of tickets to give-away. Whether you're about to embark on building your own house, implementing eco savvy technologies or undertaking a major extension, the show offers a wealth of design and expertise from specialist key influencers including Michael Holmes, editor-in-chief of Homebuilding and Renovating magazine and one of the country's leading property experts.

With the government's commitment to carbon reduction and the Green Deal aiming for energy-efficient UK homes, the Eco Home Show will be a popular feature this year. New speaker Gary

Wilburn, director of award winning architects HPW and will conduct daily seminars in the new Eco Theatre alongside eco Home specialist, Tim Pullen, covering Green Deal advice to top tips on creating a low energy high performance sustainable home.

Kingsland Timber Design, designers and builders of garages, outbuildings, garden office and studios, is launching its Kingsland Country Cottage, a One Bedroom Eco Starter Home as part of The Eco Home Show at the National Homebuilding and Renovating Show.

Each year The Advice Centre is a favourite where visitors can speak with industry specialists, gaining invaluable information and advice for any scale project. Experts from Homebuilding & Renovating magazine along with impartial representatives from respected institutions will provide you with financial, design and project

management tips.

At the Planning Clinic, experienced independent RTPI qualified experts from Foxley Tagg Planning Limited will guide you through the planning permission process. Sally Tagg, Homebuilding and Renovating magazine planning expert will be giving daily seminars to discuss the implications of Permitted Development Rights.

Head along to the 20 minute Masterclass Programme sessions by specialists within the industry who know the products and systems inside out. The show will be hosting The Big Ideas Theatre where visitors can see demonstrations highlighting the most ground-breaking products new to the market.

The Tricks of the Trade live demonstrations conducted by the show's DIY Doctor, Mike Edwards, will provide visitors with guidance and tips on avoiding cowboy builders to skimming

*Continued overleaf...*





and plastering walls.

The Self-build Theatre, the new Home Improvement Theatre and the Eco Home Theatre are a must visit at the show. Experts will guide you from foundation to finish with their real life experiences and practical pointers when self-building or renovating, adding space and project management.

The new Home Improvement & Interiors Homebuilding pavilion is an area dedicated to internal decor and finishes offering aesthetic inspiration to those desiring the latest furnishings, fixtures and fittings. Bring along your plans to the Ask The Architects zone to be guided through by expert architects from RIBA, offering sound advice and suggest alternative design ideas.

Get inspired by 'A Place to Call Home', a new exhibition curated by Sarah Beeney and presented by The Royal Institute of British Architects, looking at how the domestic property landscape

has transformed over the past 250 years.

With spring around the corner, the Landscaping Zone offers visitors inspiration on how to make the most of your outside space and find out how sustainable and energy – generating products can be incorporated within a garden setting.

Experts at the show provide credible commentary and recommendations ranging from design, finance, renewable, energy sustainability, restoration and legal issues. Additional experts to the show this year include Jason Orme (editor of Homebuilding & Renovating magazine); Roger Hunt (award winning writer and eco expert); David Snell (self build and plot finding expert); Chris Reeves (chartered builder and lawyer), Hugo Tugman (architectural designer and Real Homes magazine design expert) and Bob Branscombe (chartered surveyor and builder).

Standard tickets start from are £12 if booked before 3pm on 20 March 2013 or from £17 on the door (children under 16 go free). For more information and tickets, visit [www.homebuildingshow.co.uk](http://www.homebuildingshow.co.uk) or call the ticket hotline on 0844 581 1377

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Sponsored by the Eco Technology Show and in association with the British Homes Awards and the Building Centre, netMAGevents is delighted to announce a networking event to be held at the Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London. Join us on the evening of Thursday 28th February 2013, 18.30 - 21.30.

Please contact Lesley Mayo on [lesley@netmagmedia.eu](mailto:lesley@netmagmedia.eu) for further details, and for tickets please visit <http://netmagevents.eventbrite.co.uk/>

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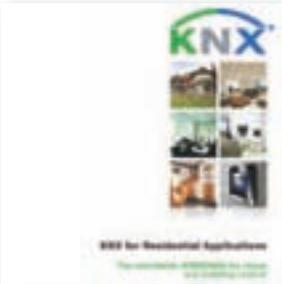


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## KNX UK



KNX UK has published a Guide to KNX for Residential applications. It provides selfbuilders and developers with information on how KNX products are being used in new and refurbishment projects throughout the residential market. The guide highlights just some of the solutions available with KNX products in the areas of controls for lighting, blinds and shutters, heating and ventilation, security as well as AV systems. It is a great introduction to the advantages of specifying KNX

products and also includes examples of real-life KNX installations in the residential market. There is a vast array of KNX products available from the many manufacturers who belong to the KNX UK Association.

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# KNX sets the benchmark in home automation

By Iain Gordon, President, KNX UK

KNX UK is the national association that promotes both KNX technology and its members. The association aims to ensure that KNX technology is the first choice for homeowners, selfbuilders and architects looking for the optimum home automation solution. KNX installations offer major benefits in terms of energy savings by providing total control of a home's lighting and heating. KNX also offers major life-style benefits and the ability to integrate all of the home's key services on one platform. Security and door entry systems, blinds and windows, AV and sound systems can all be linked and KNX also has a major role to play in assisted living.

The KNX Standard is the only worldwide approved International Standard for home and building control and its beauty is that it is supported by many manufacturers whose KNX certified products guarantee interoperability and are future proofed.



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So how does KNX work? As a simple system for intelligent electrical installation networking, a KNX bus cable combines electrical devices and systems around the home that would be part of a typical self build project. The good news is that new and additional functions or devices can be easily added at any time in the future as the homeowner's needs change and maybe extra functionality is desired.

Sensors, such as motion detectors and thermostats, send impulses over a transmission medium to actuators which then, for example, activate or deactivate the lights or can turn on/off the heating system. These sensors and actuators can be programmed and linked exactly as the selfbuilder wants. It is then easy to manipulate the functions of the KNX system using familiar switches around the home, or a tablet/telephone or even, using the internet, remotely from a computer... great if you are away for a few days.



KNX technology can regulate a home's shading, climate and lighting for each room in accordance with the outdoor temperature and prevailing daylight levels

KNX controlled products give the homeowner control over the everyday living environment. It's not just lighting and heating, although these are often the key functions because they have the most immediate impact both on lifestyle and on energy consumption. Air conditioning, security systems, the operation of blinds, the switching of electrical appliances, the opening of windows and the operation of an AV or sound system can all be integrated under KNX.

Lighting variations can be programmed to specific requirements by simply using a wall mounted touch screen. This may mean turning off or dimming lights in certain unoccupied or semi-occupied rooms or at certain times of the day to save energy. It can also include the facility to set lighting scenes – for example, in unoccupied buildings, time-controlled lights automatically open blinds to simulate occupancy. Even party mood lighting can be created!

Of course, energy management is important and power-hungry devices can be automatically switched on when electricity rates are at the lowest. Climate control is a critical area of energy conservation and automatic shading with KNX is a popular consideration. Typically, heating and lighting can be monitored and regulated so that during the winter, when warmth and light make an even greater contribution to comfort, KNX technology can regulate a home's shading, climate and lighting for each room in accordance with the outdoor tempera-

ture and prevailing daylight levels. The use of weather stations controlled by KNX can be used to control automatically the opening and closing of windows.

Another area of concern for selfbuilders is home security. Using KNX, motion detectors, glass break sensors and electronic shutter control can be connected to an alarm system or emergency call circuit. If there are suspicious noises, a panic button can be pressed and the lights go on and the shutters open. Should any alarm conditions occur, they can be conveyed by email or SMS and to a mobile phone.

In the area of assisted living, KNX can help in the execution of daily household tasks which otherwise may not be accomplished. It can interface with a property's access control system to allow the automated opening and closing of doors and the automatic illumination of certain areas at night using PIRs. The use of KNX technology can have life changing benefits.

As such a diversity of applications are covered using one standard, it means for the selfbuilder that the cabling network can be much simpler – a single twisted pair cable can often suffice, with multiple elements all operating together on a single network.

Another major advantage is that KNX installations are future proofed so that selfbuilders are not tied to one manufacturer's products – this is the result of KNX products' certified interoperability.

A typical application is that provided by KNX UK Association member Building Evolution for an Isle of Man property (pictured).

The KNX intelligent building solution for a contemporary residence demanded a versatile, intelligent home automation system with the ability to control lighting, heating, automated blinds/curtains, entrance gates, garage doors, heated towel rails and the secondary circulation of the hot water system. The adaptability of the system and the ability to add extra functionality or upgrades of KNX products at a later date were important.

Simple installation was also important. The initial installation included the control of all the property's lighting, including individual room and whole house lighting scenes.

Movement sensors have provided automatic light control on the property's landings after dark to ensure dimmed, eye-friendly lighting levels for occupants. Underfloor heating, domestic hot water and electric towel rails in all en-suite bathrooms are timed controlled from a touch panel in the kitchen.

From a security standpoint, the KNX control and monitoring of the opening and closing of gates to the property, both locally and from the remote touch panel, provide the owner with a high level of security. A touch panel in the kitchen allows the control and monitoring of the whole KNX installation from a convenient central location.

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# Editor's focus

## TT PUMPS

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## Q LAWNS

Meadowmat wild flower matting makes landscaping easy and brings colour and wildlife into your garden. Launched in 2012, Meadowmat has proved extremely popular with environmentally aware home builders as well as with garden designers and professional landscapers. Installed just like turf, Meadowmat contains 34 different species of native flowering plants and grasses and is a great way to create wildlife habitat. It's low maintenance too, which is always a bonus.

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# Underfloor heating – the ideal self build solution

Rob Stabbins, national sales manager, Robbens Systems, comments on how underfloor heating can be an asset to any self build

As underfloor heating (UFH) becomes an ever-more popular choice for both new build and refurbishment projects, increasing numbers of selfbuilders are realising its benefits. Not only does it offer significant energy savings and greater design flexibility than traditional heating systems (with greater heating efficiency and no radiators to plan around), it can also be tailored to the exact needs of a project. What's more, it's easier to install than many people think.

One of UFH's major benefits is that it offers an even distribution of heat – helping keep a property at an ideal temperature in an energy efficient way. While radiators heat the air directly around them, which then rises upwards before cooling as it descends, UFH uses the whole floor to radiate heat directly into the body through the feet. This eliminates the need for radiators while also delivering energy savings of up to 15 per cent. It also means rooms stay at an even, comfortable temperature of up to 3°C lower than traditional systems, as the body assimilates heat directly from the floor surface as well as the air around it.

## Opting for the right system

This discreet heating efficiency makes UFH an attractive alternative to traditional radiator heating. Selfbuilders opting for an underfloor system have a choice between wet (water-based) and dry – these have different operating temperatures, which affects their suitability for various floor coverings. With this in mind, it's always best to discuss your specific requirements with your supplier, who will be able to advise on

Selfbuilders opting for an underfloor system have a choice between wet and dry

which UFH/floor covering combination is best suited to your project.

For example, wet systems work to a lower operating temperature of between 40°C and 60°C (comparatively, radiators operate at a much higher 75°C). This flow temperature makes wet systems ideal for use alongside timber flooring, which can be prone to warping under the hotter temperatures provided by many electric UFH systems.

There are also other factors to take into account, such as the energy source. Since wet UFH typically runs from the property's boiler, rather than directly from electricity, it is also more economical to operate in the long run. Its lower flow temperatures also make it ideal for partnering with renewable heat sources, such as heat pumps or solar thermal collectors – allowing selfbuilders to benefit from even greater energy efficiency.

## Tailoring to your needs

After choosing the system, the next step is ensuring the system is designed to meet the exact  
*Continued overleaf...*



specifications of the project. Without the right design, the system will not perform to its full capability. Reputable UFH suppliers will offer a full heat-loss calculation to find out exactly how much heat the property requires.

These heat-loss calculations take out the guesswork – taking into account a variety of factors to indicate how warm the floor needs to be for a comfortable room temperature, and the water temperature required from the heat source. If in doubt, talk to your supplier at quotation stage and confirm that this is the first step they will take when specifying your system.

#### **Hassle-free installation**

It's a common misconception amongst self-builders that wet UFH is difficult to fit, but it is more straightforward to install than people think. Most of the job can be done yourself, skill and

fitness level permitting. However, depending on your experience, it is a good idea to ask a professional plumber to make the final connections to the main services and an electrician to connect the electrical components at the last stages of the install.

The most important thing to remember is never to go it completely alone. Make the most of the support on offer from your UFH provider – a reputable supplier should offer expert advice and guidance from the outset of a project to its completion. For example, a supplier can use the initial heat-loss calculation to plan the system layout, showing where pipes should be laid closer together to compensate for areas of higher heat loss (e.g. by windows).

Your supplier can also advise on insulation, which is essential for optimum system performance. Insulating the floors beneath the UFH ensures

that heat travels upwards into the room rather than downwards into the ground. It ensures the system operates to maximum efficiency and that all heat is used within the property and not wasted.

#### **A stress-free solution**

As well as offering ongoing benefits, such as comfortable room temperatures and significant energy savings, with the right level of guidance wet UFH is the ideal choice for self-builders. Not only is it straightforward to install, it also integrates well with a variety of heat sources and can be designed to meet a project's exact needs. This means those working closely with a reputable supplier can focus on the long-term rather than worrying about the short-term – and concentrate on reaping the rewards of a simple, unobtrusive and efficient home heating solution.

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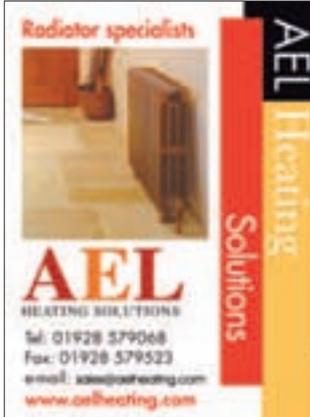
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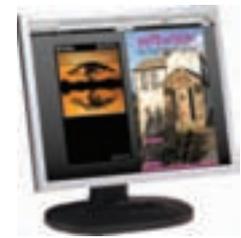
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