

selfbuilder & homemaker

July/August 2013

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Insulation (inc thermal & acoustic)
Lighting & Electrical
Rainwater Products
Stairs & Staircases
Bathrooms Showcase
Pools, Spas & Decking Showcase
100% Design Show Preview
Renewables Road Show Preview

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Subscription costs just £18 for 6 issues, including post and packing. Phone 01435 863500 for details. Individual copies of the publication are available at £3.25 each inc p&p.

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comment

Supporting the self-build surge by Mark Prisk

Enthusiasm for self-build is growing.

Across the country more people are becoming aware that building your own home does not mean constructing a multi-million pound fantasy mansion.

A recent industry survey found that that one in eight people are expected to research undertaking a self-build project within the next 12 months, and around one in 50 expect to buy a building plot, obtain planning consent or start construction work during the coming year.

The industry is already sizeable with a lot of variety, accounting for one in 10 of the homes we build, and worth £3 billion a year to the economy.

Yet despite this, Britain lags behind the rest of the world – and that means many people who would like to live in a self-built home never get the opportunity to do so.

National Self-Build Week

This is not right.

It's why the government is supporting the industry's aim to double in size over the coming years. So I'm delighted that the first-ever National Self-Build Week has taken place now.

Running from 5 – 12 May, this dedicated week of activity offered a one-stop shop for anyone looking to learn more about building their own homes.

It was organised by the National Self-Build Association and Grand Designs Live, and to mark the launch I attended Grand Designs at the Excel Centre with Kevin McCloud and Ted Stevens from the Association.

We answered questions on a whole variety of issues affecting self-build, from raising cash to finding the land.

Support for self-build

It was a good opportunity to set out how the government is supporting aspiring self builders. This includes:

- Working with the self-build industry to launch a Self-Build Portal, with information



for those wanting to build;

- Making £44 million available to help communities and individual self-builders get their projects off the ground; and
- Ensuring councils consider the needs of self-builders when planning the development of their area.

Tax relief

Under new proposals, self-builders will be given relief from paying the Community Infrastructure Levy, a charge levied by councils on new buildings over a certain size, potentially saving thousands of pounds in charges.

It shows the government is serious about helping aspiring self-builders, so more people will now have opportunity to turn their plans into reality.

news

It's time to rebuild confidence in tradesmen

TrustMark has commissioned new research into public perceptions of tradesmen. At first glance it seems that most people have a good impression – 71 per cent of respondents felt their overall experience of using a tradesman was more positive than negative. However, almost a quarter say they have had

an overall negative experience with tradesmen, and more than half of all respondents felt their perception of tradesmen had become more negative because of the 'cowboy builder' TV programmes, which pursue the worst rogue traders and criminals masquerading as tradesmen in the domestic sector.

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Housing Design Award 2013 Winners Announced

Church Walk, Clissold Park (Mayor's Housing Design Guide Award)

Housing Design Awards 2013 have made more schemes winners than in any previous year, reflecting the improving quality of Britain's new housing. There were 37 completed schemes and 23 projects (unbuilt or partly built and not occupied) schemes were shortlisted, resulting in 15 Awards.

There are increasing signs of two parallel UK housing markets emerging – London and outside London – with more housing construction being concentrated in the capital. Well over half of all submissions to this year's Housing Design Awards were London schemes, a development that is reflected in the new Mayor's London Housing Design Guide award.

Common design themes to emerge this year.

- Outside the capital there are a number of examples of high-quality schemes that have crafted an innovative contemporary response to the

local rural vernacular.

- While still trying to meet higher densities, more developments are separating buildings with water.
- In order to build locally distinct housing estates, there are many instances of design variety, ranging from complexity of plans to the use of differing storey heights.

The Housing Design Awards are the longest running Awards programme in the country (since 1948) and the only one that sends a multidisciplinary set of judges to see shortlisted developments. Established and still controlled by government, this is the Awards programme which all the others pretend to be.

David Birkbeck, CEO of Design for Homes, judge and 'rapporteur' for the government's Housing Design Awards said: "It is great to see the number of winners increasing, reflecting the rise in standards of housing in the UK. I particularly congratulate



Buccleuch House, Hackney, winner of two awards – a Project Award and the HAPPI Award."

The Award Winners were announced at a ceremony on 4 July at Central St Martins in Kings Cross, London.

Two custom build schemes have received commendations at a

top awards ceremony.

The Malings – on the banks of the Ouseburn, close to Newcastle city centre – a project that includes a custom-build phase, and;

Church Walk, in Stoke Newington, London – an entirely custom-built scheme.

planning portal

Changes to streamline planning application process have been implicated

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has published its response to its consultation on a package of measures to simplify and streamline the application process in England.

The response confirmed the administration would introduce proposed reforms to the validation regime for planning applications, Design and Access Statements and changes to decision notices. These changes came into force on 25 June.

New rules will mean only major developments, some applications in designated areas and listed building consents require Design and Access Statements.

"Reducing the number of applications that require a Design and Access Statement removes statutory burdens on applicants, but it is not considered that this would

be at the expense of good design and accessibility. As such, the proposal will be taken forward as consulted on," said DCLG.

In designated areas – conservation areas and World Heritage sites – a lower threshold will be involved: one or more dwellings or a building or buildings where the floor space created by the development is 100 sq m or more.

DCLG said the changes do not affect an applicant's ability to explain or justify their design and neither do they alter a local planning authority's ability to apply its design and access policies when determining applications.

Proposals to remove some of the requirements for the contents of Design and Access Statements, including explanations of certain specific design principles and details of access maintenance,

will also be instigated.

At the same time the government is introducing a new approach to the validation of planning applications under which the information a local authority requires must be 'genuinely necessary' and material to the application.

The department has also decided to press ahead with its plan to remove the requirement for local planning authorities to provide a written summary of reasons on decision notices when granting planning permission.

It argued that planning officer reports and committee minutes would explain the full rationale for a decision. "The summary on decision notices therefore adds little to the transparency or quality of the decision-making process".

www.planningportal.gov.uk

news

First ever self-build event recently held in Leeds

An event to bring together individuals and groups interested in building their own homes took place in Leeds recently.

The event organised by Leeds City Council took place at Civic Hall in May.

Speakers from the National Self Build Association (NaSBA) and the Homes and Communities Agency were at the event alongside a number of other agencies that can assist and give advice about how to start building your own house.

RHI announcement will spur heat pump sales and help promote high standards

Mitsubishi Electric has welcomed the announcement from DECC (Department of Energy and Climate Change) on the domestic RHI (Renewable Heat Incentive) scheme which allows people installing low carbon heating systems to qualify for a financial payment for every kWh of renewable heat they produce.

The company manufactures the award-winning Ecodan® range of air source heat pumps, which deliver market-leading levels of reliability and efficiency,

backed up by a nationwide network of accredited installers.

"This is a clear statement of long-term intent from the government which gives everyone confidence that the scheme will help the market grow in a sustainable and meaningful way," explains John Kellett, general manager of the company's Ecodan® range.

"In particular, we are encouraged by the links with the Green Deal, which will ensure that renewable technologies are only installed in properties that have

been thermally improved to make sure that any renewable heat generated is not wasted."

Mitsubishi Electric has led the market in insisting on appropriate standards of installation for heat pumps to ensure that the highest standards and performance levels are achieved.

"Ecodan units are already proven in their ability to reduce running costs and CO₂ emissions throughout the UK and we are able to provide clear evidence of the benefits to



households from more than 80 monitored sites," adds Kellett.

Enq. 602

Turning self-build dreams into a reality

Plymouth City Council is celebrating the first ever National Self Build Week and calling on prospective self-builders to get in touch.

Encouraging people who want to build their own homes is part of the Get Plymouth Building programme that aims to create more

affordable housing and help people get on the housing ladder.

A self-build champion, Amy Luxton, has been appointed from the Council's Housing Delivery team. Amy will be supporting people who would like to build their own homes and

exploring options for sites in Plymouth.

Efforts are being focused on helping provide self-builders with access to land at reasonable prices. They would then be legally required to occupy the house themselves.

Find out more at: www.plymouth.gov.uk

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Q & A

Q. How do I choose which type of underfloor heating is most suitable for my project?

A. Martin Dootson, Polypipe Home Solutions. "There are a wide range of underfloor heating systems, each one designed with the specifications of a different project or build in mind.

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floor is a high mass system and can only be installed at ground level. It is typically best suited to beam and block construction. Floating floor systems offer a light-weight construction alternative.

For upper floors, including those with difficult to access or engineered joists, use Modular Heating Panels (MHP). These

floor panels are suitable for all floor coverings and can be fitted from above or below.

Before purchasing a system, consider what type of flooring it will be fitted beneath.

Although underfloor heating systems will work efficiently with any floor covering – as long as there is sufficient insulation underneath

– it should be remembered that harder surfaces such as stone, wood, ceramic and marble offer better conductivity and, therefore, better heat output rates.

Before fitting the system, consult an approved installer and check the choice of flooring is compatible with the selected system of underfloor heating."

Enq. 603

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Tim Allen, heating
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Building an art deco-style home in rural Scotland
fit for a time travelling detective

Written by Simon Garrett, Photographed by David Hutchinson



The 1930s was such an exciting time in architecture; people had access to transport and went on holidays for the first time

– Tony Allen



ON ARRIVAL, THE VIEW OF THE BEAUTIFUL WHITE RENDERED HOUSE EMERGING FROM THE FOREST IS BREATHTAKING



TONY MADE A 1960S-STYLE POLICE BOX, OR TARDIS, OUT OF THE LEFT OVER BUILDING MATERIALS. IT'S THE PERFECT POST BOX FOR PARCELS OF ANY SIZE!

With a classic Rolls Royce and vintage police box sitting outside, it is hard to say whether Hercule Poirot or Doctor Who would be more at home at Tony Allen's stunning self-built house on the east coast of Scotland. Once the time traveller and the Belgian detective had had a chance to look around the answer is most probably both.

Heating engineer Tony finished the construction last year and won the Federation of Master Builders 'New Home of the Year' prize for Scotland, sharing it with his builder and FMB member, Peterkin Homes. It is the fourth time the company has won the award. Sited at Fordoun, between Aberdeen and Dundee, it is hardly what one would call a typical building style of the area. As it was, Tony's inspiration

came from somewhat nearer his childhood home in Lancashire.

"I was always fascinated by art deco and used to go to Morecombe to see the wonderful Midland Hotel," he said. "The 1930s was such an exciting time in architecture; people had access to transport and went on holidays for the first time, and the style spread all over the world. You don't see a lot in Scotland and certainly there are very few examples locally as it's a very traditional place. I wanted to build something different, something that would stand out."

It might be assumed that such a radical and uncharacteristic design would meet stout opposition from local planners but Tony found the opposite to be true.

"Planning was a big surprise," he said. "If

Continued on page 13...

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Reader Enquiry
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HIGH POINT OF THE PROJECT

"I came round the end of the track and just saw this amazing white house rising out of the forest and I was just blown away; it looked fantastic"

THE GARAGES CAN'T BE SEEN ON APPROACH, THEY ARE AT THE BACK OF THE HOUSE SO THE PLOT LOOKS UNCLUTTERED AND THE SIMPLE CLEAN LINES AND GEOMETRIC SHAPES AREN'T DISTURBED



you try to refurbish houses round here you can run into difficulty; even putting a Velux window in can be a problem. With me, the planners were really helpful. They could see from the start it had some genuine architectural merit because it was a recognised style, which they could appreciate. I applied for permission and eight weeks later I had the go ahead, which surprised both the architect and me. Previously I'd wanted to build a conservatory on a traditional house ten miles from here and it took four planning meetings and two site visits with the same planning department before getting permission, so this time I was amazed."

During construction, Tony was all too aware of the flaw, which had struck so many art deco buildings in the past. Originally they included flat roofs formed from a single slab of poured concrete, which meant that leaks and general dampness were often an issue.

"If you look at the house you would think it has a flat roof but actually it hasn't," he said. "It's a pitched steel roof but with careful design you can't see the slope because it's hidden behind the parapet wall."

Builders and architects putting up art deco houses in the twenties and thirties would certainly

find little in common with the construction methods used here. "This is basically a four bedroomed kit house," Tony explained. "It's made from super wall panels, which are plywood with eight by two timbers and then another layer of plywood all injected with foam. They don't come as small sections but very large ones. A whole corner of one room is one section, for example, and they're bolted together to make the house. I like it as a building method because instead of putting the thing together and slowly adding individual elements you get a rigid structure within a day or two. The other advantage is that all the insulation is within the wall and so that's another big job already done as soon as the frame is up. The outside of the house is a standard kit construction with four inch block smooth rendered on the outside."

For many self-builders who have struggled through the trials and tribulations of seeing their homes completed, Tony's swan-like serenity regarding the ease with which it all came together might easily inspire deep envy. Just for them, he admits the build was not without its challenges. "The worst part was the winter. It was the toughest on record here with temperatures falling to minus twenty-five. We had trouble

The planners were really helpful. They could see from the start it had some genuine architectural merit because it was a recognised style

– Tony Allen

Continued on page 15...

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Tony Allen

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Enq. 104

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Enq. 106

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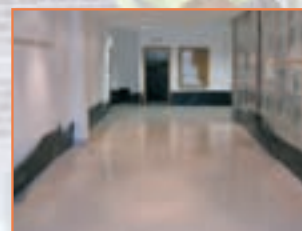
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Enq. 107

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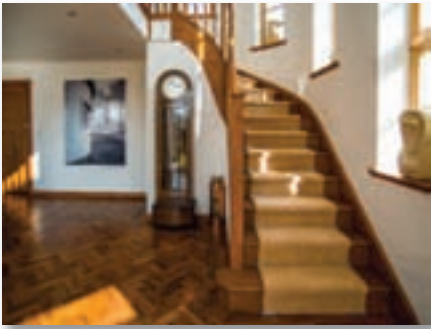
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Enq. 108



TONY HAS DECORATED THIS CONTEMPORARY ART DECO-STYLE HOME AUTHENTICALLY



THE LOW POINT WAS

"The worst part was the winter. It was the toughest on record with temperatures falling to -25°. The water was freezing on-site, vehicles couldn't get on at all – it was miserable."

with the water freezing on-site, vehicles not being able to get on at all – it was miserable. For good measure the caravan heating packed up and the water froze solid. There was three feet of snow on the roof and everything just stopped dead."

Although the misery was not long-lasting. "I do remember clearly coming home after a very long day and the house had been under construction for over a year and I didn't realise that was the day all the scaffolding was coming down. I came round the end of the track and just saw this amazing white house rising out of the forest and I was just blown away; it looked fantastic."

Tony says that joy has stayed with him. "Initially it's a relief after living on site for eighteen months in a static caravan to get into a house

that is a great space to live in. It's virtually silent, which is fantastic, and warm, but it's the feeling of achievement because you see this thing from the first plans when they clear the site, when they knock the old house down, and then things come together. The first day when you move into the house is really a great day. Every morning when I get up and open the curtains I just think 'wow, this is a fantastic place to live'."

Having successfully and happily completed the job, Tony has some sage words for other self-builders. "Once you've asked for a few prices look at the track record of the builder you want to do the job and get them to show you other houses they've done before and introduce you to former clients so you can get a feel for what they're like. Then, make sure you have the builder and the architect in the same room at

Continued overleaf...

The caravan heating packed up and the water froze solid. There was three feet of snow on the roof and everything just stopped dead

– Tony Allen

Without a doubt the heat recovery system is the best bit of technology I've put into the house. It's so cost-effective

– Tony Allen



EVEN THOUGH MOST OF THE FURNISHINGS ARE IN KEEPING WITH THE ART DECO STYLE, TONY HASN'T IGNORED THE ESSENTIALS OF MODERN LIVING, INCLUDING AN UP-TO-DATE OPEN PLAN KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM

the same time so if there any cock-ups or anything that needs moving or changing it can be done quickly and seamlessly. It's the only way to avoid the blame game later."

"I chose this builder because he has all the trades in-house. They're used to building bespoke houses like this and doing estates as well so they were able to project manage it properly. Due to their experience, everything happened in the correct order and was delivered on time. So often jobs start to go wrong because there's no progression. Materials weren't lying on-site in terrible weather getting soggy; we weren't waiting two months for a plumber to turn up or for a joiner and that's important because otherwise a twelve month job can easily drag on for eighteen."

Tony has strict rules when it comes to money. "Before you begin the project go to see the bank manager, fix the budget and decide what's going into every room then don't change your mind. You see so many projects that end

up massively over budget because of lots of little changes. People think "I'll just move that fire-place there, I'll just get these light fittings from B&Q at £100 each," and when you get to the end of the job there's an extra bill for fifty or sixty thousand pounds. There's a responsibility on the part of the customer as well as the builder. Being in the building trade I see this often. People don't realise that small changes can add up to a big difference in the overall price."

Tony's house certainly doesn't look like one where corners have been cut and prices shaved. Certainly for him there is one expense for which he has no regret.

"Without a doubt the heat recovery system is the best bit of technology I've put into the house. It's so cost-effective. Mechanical ventilation serves all of the rooms so all the moist air is taken out and it recovers 75 to 80 per cent of the heat that's normally exhausted. When you add up the cost of all the extractor fans you'd need for so many bathrooms and kitchens, it's



Tony's TOP TIP

Before you begin the project go to see the bank manager, fix the budget and decide what's going into every room, then don't change your mind

really good value."

As Tony discusses his home there are three deer out in the garden nibbling on his hedge. It is a far cry from his Manchester roots. Also out of the window he can see the 1929 Rolls Royce 20/25 – not his car but leant to him by a friend who owns a classic car business and said it just seemed right to park it in front of a house of the same period! The TARDIS is of his own construction using bits and pieces left over from the build. "I had built my own art deco style post-box to sit on top of a well in the garden. One night coming home from the pub it looked like someone had dumped an old fridge on my doorstep so it had to go. The TARDIS is even better for the postman," he said, "because he can deliver parcels of absolutely any size, because of course it's bigger on the inside!"

Tony says he wouldn't change a thing about the property and would and will do the same thing again. "I'm thinking about covering Scotland in art deco houses," he says.

Contacts

- Wolseley plumb centre www.wolseley.co.uk
- ABS Plumbing and Heating LTD www.absheating.co.uk
- Grant boilers UK www.grantuk.com
- Myson underfloor heating www.myson.co.uk/products/underfloor_heating.asp
- Peterkin Homes Ltd (auchenblae) www.peterkinhomes.co.uk
- Scofframe timber kit homes www.scofframe.co.uk
- Kingspan insulation www.kingspaninsulation.co.uk
- Leith concrete products (montrose) www.leiths-group.co.uk/quarry-concrete-products/precast-concrete
- Kingspan oil storage www.kingspanenv.com
- Kingspan Bio disc drainager www.klargester.com/products/BioDisc-BA-BD.htm
- XL joinery products www.xljoinery.co.uk
- M Marcus heritage ironmongery www.m-marcus.com
- Allan Brothers www.allanbrothers.co.uk
- Keyline Builders merchants www.keyline.co.uk
- Jewson builders merchants www.jewson.co.uk
- Crown paints www.crownpaint.co.uk
- Karndean flooring www.karndean.com/en-gb/floors
- Heritage bathrooms Ltd www.heritagebathrooms.com
- Topseal grp products www.topseal.co.uk
- Ferrier pumps Ltd (aberdeen) www.ferrierpumps.co.uk
- Oso hot water storage www.osohotwater.co.uk
- Bristan group taps www.bristan.com
- Mira showers www.mirashowers.co.uk



2



4



Interior inspiration: Bathrooms showcase

Bathrooms are a place of tranquility, privacy and relaxation, so why not make it your own personal escape? With bathrooms in particular, there is a lot you can do with a small space, combining design with practicality.

This month we have top tips from Niki Schafer of Dwell-being Interior Design and products from Better Bathrooms, EcoToilets Victoria Plumb, Grant Westfield and Scumble Goosie...

Top ten tips for the perfect bathroom

By Niki Schafer

- 1 If you are thinking about having a bath in your bedroom (very hotel chic!), bear in mind that the room needs to be quite large. A comfortable temperature to bathe in is 23 degrees, however we sleep much better at 19 degrees or below. If you have an evening bath and then head to bed, you'll be sticky and uncomfortable if the room isn't large enough to dissipate the heat.
- 2 Make sure there's a window in your bathroom or toilet. The extractor fans today are marvellous, but nothing beats opening the window. Natural light is also beneficial to your wellbeing.
- 3 Decorate your loo with lots of fabulous photographs. Give people a reason to justify how long they spend in there.
- 4 When it comes to your bathroom floor, remember that this is a hard-working room which experiences radical temperature and humidity shifts. Carpets are a definite no as it is highly likely that they will mould. Wooden floors can look great, but if you are partial to a steamy shower they may not look great for long. Instead, try some porcelain tiles, they can have the same great wood look and will last longer.
- 5 If you have a small bathroom, try using large polished tiles on the walls and large matt tiles on the floor. Having a minimum number of lines can help make the room look and feel more spacious.
- 6 Use every nook and cranny for storage, you'll find bottles and towels fit in neatly. If you are building walls, try to make them wide enough to incorporate niches for shampoo bottles.
- 7 Adjusting floor levels can create much-needed space in a bathroom; you could try a sunken bath or wetroom shower.
- 8 If you don't have time to completely re-do your bathroom, try accessorising to bring a different style and freshness that can make the room feel brand new. Try something simple like using big jars for your soaps, a decorative hand cream or a beautiful jug.
- 9 If your bathroom is spacious, try to add something free standing to add a new focal point for the room, perhaps a decorative chair or a cupboard, which could be used for storing your towels.
- 10 Setting a sink into a piece of furniture or into marble can help make your bathroom feel more homely and less like a hotel. An added bonus is that you can use the extra space for storage.

Enq. 604

3



6



5



1. Better Bathrooms

This Lisbon Bath, from Better Bathrooms, has a spacious and sumptuous design with a curved shape and smooth finished edges. This Bath would perfectly complement the bologna. Supplied undrilled for tap holes means that this bath can be accompanied by many in our extensive range of bath taps.

Price: £489.95 (inc VAT) www.betterbathrooms.com

Enq. 109

2. Victoria Plumb

Sky White Floor Mounted 1000 Door Unit & Basin:
Was £749 – Now £329

Sky White Wall Cabinet: Was £399 – Now £179

Sky White Back To Wall Unit: Was £299 – Now £119

Arc Roll Top Bath Large: Was £939 – Now £469

The collection consists of seven stunning, white gloss furniture items, starting from just £119. This range combines modernity and elegance perfectly, creating an overall sleek and minimal look.

Enq. 110

3. multiPANEL

Love tiles, hate grouting? Then welcome to the world of multiPANEL, by Grant Westfield Ltd... Now you can create the perfect fusion of practicality and style by lining your bathroom, wetroom or shower with multiPANEL waterproof wall panels. Manufactured from a 9mm plywood core bonded with a decorative laminate face.

Enq. 111

4. Scumble Goosie

The English Panelling Company launched their best selling Georgian Butt and Bead panelling through Scumble Goosie nearly 20 years ago. Made from best quality Medite Moisture Resistant grade MDF it is available in three sizes including full 8' x 4' sheets. The bead detail and spacing (150mm or 200mm) is what makes it stand head and shoulders above the competition as once painted it is indistinguishable from traditional wood panelling. From £10.75 (inc vat) for the 600 x 800mm size.

Enq. 112

5. Better Bathrooms

This AquaLine 1400 Walkin Shower Pack includes an 800mm front panel, a 250mm return panel, a 900mm end panel, and a low profile 1,407mm x 907mm shower tray. Price: £472.95 (inc VAT)

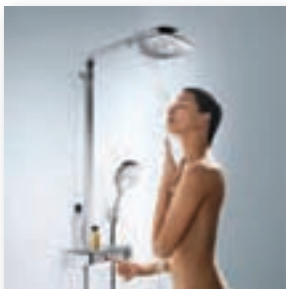
Enq. 113

6. EcoToilets

Imagine a toilet that has no need for water, sewage systems, miles of plumbing, septic tanks, cess pits etc and has the freedom to be put almost anywhere you can put a conventional WC. There is such a product, a dry separating toilet that works on the design of the human body. Urine is directed one way and solids the other, the solids will in time produce marvellous compost and the urine, which is sterile can be used on the compost heap or, soaked or drained away. From £659.99

Enq. 114

Hansgrohe



The innovative Raindance Select collection from Hansgrohe offers the choice of spray modes with a simple push button 'select' operation.

The new Raindance Select E300 3jet overhead shower (shown here on the showerpipe) features a new third style of spray called RainStream.

Rows of cascading shower nozzles project the water in a uniform curtain, which keeps its shape all the way

down to the ground.

This is switched on and off by a button on the thermostat.

Tel: 01372 465 655 www.hansgrohe.co.uk

Enq. 115

Crosswater



Versatile, practical and with a classical simplicity that will never date, Glide II from Bauhaus is the furniture collection that meets every bathroom need. Launched this month and available in Calico, White Gloss and real wood American Walnut and wenge finishes, Glide II combines a comprehensive choice of units with basins in either cast mineral marble or slimline ceramic. The two drawer basin units come in three widths and offer plentiful and easy access storage space. The cast mineral marble basins are available with or without tap holes, allowing for use of stylish wall mounted fillers (available from sister company Crosswater). The ceramic basins are slab style with useful put down space.

Enq. 116



Waters Baths of Ashbourne

British luxury bath specialist, Waters Baths of Ashbourne, is providing the ultimate in bathing 'thinspiration' with the launch of the UK's thinnest freestanding bath collection.

The exquisite new collection features five beautifully designed, acrylic freestanding baths that offer the indulgent bathing sensation normally associated with larger baths, without compromising on space or style.

With sleek 20mm profile edges, 100mm thinner than many other freestanding baths, the innovative designs break the bathing mold, providing up to 200mm additional bathing space that is perfect for melting away the stresses of the day.

Expertly crafted, with the look and style of a stone bath and supplied with a lifetime warranty, customers have complete peace of mind that the i-Line bath will remain a show stopping centrepiece of the bathroom for years to come.

Tel: 01332 824 166 www.watersbaths.co.uk

Enq. 117



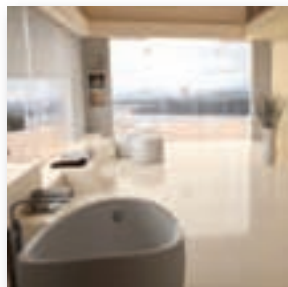
Tarkett

Flooring expert Tarkett has launched an innovative new range of Luxury Vinyl Tiles (LVTs) for the home – iD Inspiration 70. The company has used its years of experience developing LVTs for the commercial sector to produce the range that will sit alongside its iD Selection 40 collection. The ranges retain commercial specifications meaning that they're extremely hard wearing. But Tarkett has designed these new collections for the smaller room sizes and interior aesthetics of consumer homes. Both ranges are 100 per cent recyclable and include a minimum 48 per cent recycled content. Tarkett's LVT range is also the only product on the UK market that is manufactured and designed in Europe. This means both products have a carbon footprint lower than those manufactured in the Far East. VOC emissions are also below quantifiable levels, contributing to an optimal indoor air quality. These environmental credentials, together with outstanding durability and contemporary designs make Tarkett's iD Selection 40 and iD Inspiration 70 collections the ideal choice for architects and designers specifying flooring for residential properties.

Tel: 01622 854040 www.tarkett.co.uk

Enq. 118

COMPAC



Technological marble from COMPAC is an engineered stone composite which has the look and feel of natural marble but with properties that eradicate many of the problems associated with it. Containing up to 96 per cent natural marble mixed with resins, COMPAC's technological marble has a hardness similar to marble but its resistance to impact and breakage is much greater owing to its enhanced flexibility. Like natural stone, COMPAC's technological marble can

also be polished maintaining its shine and original appearance for much longer. It can be used on kitchen and bathroom floors, walls, worksurfaces, vanity tops and staircases.

Enq. 119

Abode



Storm is a range of stainless steel, flat slimline showers aimed at the design conscious consumer who has come to expect only the best from Abode.

The stunningly designed showers are a feat of engineering excellence at only 3mm thick.

All heads have a spray pattern, which produces a Storm of water for an invigorating shower.

The company now introduces the latest heads, which also incorporate a waterfall.

The range combines long and square heads for wall mounting and square and circular heads for ceiling mounting.

Tel: 01226 283434 www.abode.eu

Enq. 120

ESG Switchable™ Privacy Glass



ESG

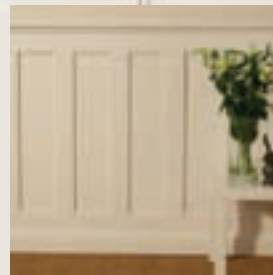
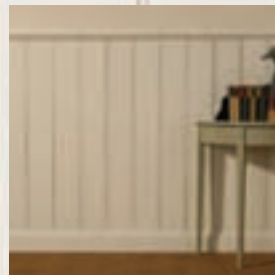
In bathrooms and wetrooms where privacy and discretion is vital, ESG Switchable™ gives instant control over privacy or public gaze. ESG Switchable™ increases the levels of light and space, opening up small bathrooms and creating a much more pleasant ambience. This makes the privacy glass the preferred choice for use in bathrooms as well as in larger wet rooms, pool areas and changing areas as a modern design feature. The system is safe and fully certified for use in wet areas, with a low working voltage from just 24v. Offering a full system solution, ESG Switchable™ technology can be combined with coloured or decorative interlayers to complement interior design. It can be used on curved surfaces, cut into odd shapes or even hole punched, with bespoke hinges and fittings also available. ESG Switchable™ LCD Privacy Glass integrates with building management systems, and is available in sizing up to 1,800mm x 3,500mm, the largest on the market. With a life expectancy of 25 years with due care, ESG Switchable™ is manufactured in the UK with full technical support and installation service.

Tel: 01376 520061 www.esgswitchableglass.co.uk

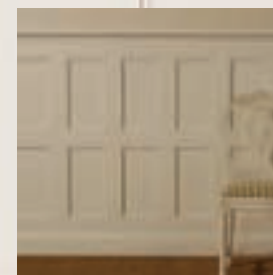
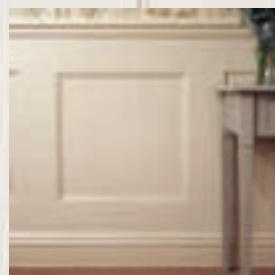
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Enq. 123



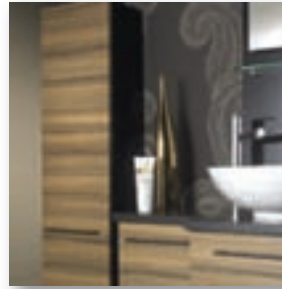
Schlüter-Systems

Schlüter-Systems' extensive range of wet room products offers simplicity, reliability and easy installation within the home. Incorporating the very latest innovations for floor-level showers and wet rooms, Schlüter-Systems provides a fully integrated product suite, including top of the range waterproofing sets, drainage systems, and uncoupling and waterproofing membranes for tiling the walls and floors. Products including Schlüter® KERDI-LINE are linear drain channel systems, which are perfect for the construction of floor level showers and offer a particularly low assembly height. The Schlüter® KERDI-SHOWER range are pre-sloped shower bases making tiling straightforward and there are a number of different sizes and dimensions available, providing an ideal substrate for an excellent finish with tile or natural stone. Other products in the range include the Schlüter® KERDI-SHOWER-TB, which has been specifically designed for timber substrate environments and the Schlüter® KERDI-DRAIN, which is a square floor drain system with designer grate options. Schlüter® WETROOM range also boast all-in-one wet room kits.

Tel: 01530 813396 www.schluter.co.uk

Enq. 124

Mereway Bathrooms



Storage is everything in today's modern bathroom, and designers can express their flare and style statement with Mereway's stunning collection of modular and fitted furniture. With such a broad selection of depth and width cabinets, not to mention the number of low level, base, wall and full height units within their range, Mereway can offer a storage solution for any size or shape of bathroom. The collection comprises 34 beautiful door finishes and an extensive number of handle options, luxury components, design features and storage solutions.

Tel: 0800 028 4466 www.merewaybathrooms.co.uk

Enq. 125

Multikwik



Multikwik products are all about making life easy for the installer, and the latest innovation from the company is no exception. Multikwik has developed a range of compact and adaptable trapped shower gullies for vinyl sheeting floors that are quick and easy to fit, really versatile, with high performance and look great when installed. The range offers various options to meet installation needs, with horizontal and vertical outlets, 50mm or 75mm seal depth, as well as 50mm to 40mm

size adaptors and different height options for the Straight Through Shower Gully. Pre-drilled holes and pre-assembled fitting all point towards quick and hassle-free installation.

Enq. 126



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Email:- richard@ecotoilet.org.uk

Enq. 127

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Keep up to date with the 'multiPANEL collection' on facebook

Enq. 128

Stelrad



Radiator manufacturer Stelrad Radiators has introduced its brand new, curved vertical premium panel radiator to the UK market – the Stelrad Swing. The new model is based on Stelrad's extremely popular Compact Vertex radiator but sees the addition of a one piece, curved steel front cover that gives it a modern and aesthetically pleasing designer feel. It comes in white as standard but can be specially ordered in up to 35 colours, with a lead time of six weeks for delivery, making it an extremely attractive product for interior designers and architects, looking to match radiator colours with corporate or specific colour décor.

Tel: 0870 849 8056 www.stelrad.com

Enq. 129

Mapei

100% Design stand E1



Mapei is encouraging designers to use its creative licence and gain inspiration from their exhibition stand at 100% Design between the 18-21 September 2013. Mapei will be exhibiting a selection of its environmentally friendly products including Silexcolor protective and decorative wall coatings system, Mapefloor resin flooring system and Ultratop Industrial cementitious flooring. Located at stand E1, Mapei will be displaying Silexcolor Marmorino. Suitable for interior and exterior wall applications, Silexcolor Marmorino creates an attractive marble aesthetic. Differing design options in finish, texture, colour and hues will be on display.

Tel: 0121 508 6970 www.mapei.co.uk

Enq. 130

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.

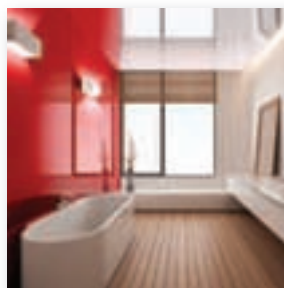
One of the latest social media sensations, Pinterest allows you to browse pinboards, discover new things and get inspiration from people who share your interests, as well as create your own boards so you may organise and share all the beautiful things you find on the web.

[Visit pinterest.com/selfbuildhome/ to follow us!]



Abacus Direct

100% Design stand K214



Abacus Direct is spotlighting the stunning Lustrolite range at the 100% Design Show this September. Appearing on stand number K214, the easy-to-install, glass-finish Lustrolite panels can be seen in seven beautiful colours for both kitchens and bathrooms. Lustrolite high gloss wall panelling has many benefits for the retailer and installer trade. It looks the same as glass but weighs less than a third of a traditional glass sheet and has 20 times the impact strength. It's also safe,

hygienic and can be cut and drilled on-site, saving time for both installer and customer. There's no templating and no need to wait for worktops when used in kitchen applications.

Enq. 131

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Enq. 132



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www.colorcoaturban.com

What's new for the UK's largest design show?

This September sees 100% Design, the UK's largest and longest running contemporary design event for industry professionals and the public, come to Earls Court for four days. Following unrivalled success in 2012, 100% Design is 40 per cent bigger than last year and will see over 25,000 visitors, making it the main commercial event during the London Design Festival (LDF).

The general public can attend on Saturday 21 between 10am and 6pm – this day has been specifically tailored for the consumer and there are lots of interesting seminars that are free to attend as well as looking around what is essentially five different shows: **Office; Interiors; Kitchens & Bathrooms; Eco Design & Build and the International Pavilions.**

After the successful launch of Talks With 100% Design at May's Clerkenwell Design Week, and building on the huge popularity of 100% Design's live events at LDF last year, the 2013 edition of the fair features a dedicated theme for each day of the four-day programme of Talks With 100% Design: 'Interior Design'; 'Architecture'; 'The Consumer' and 'Creative Balance'.

Global architectural icon Richard Rogers and legendary designer Giulio Cappellini are the headline speakers at this year's Talks With 100% Design. Talks will be held in the main seminar space as well as focused live seminar sessions to be held in each of the Hubs (Interiors, Kitchens & Bathrooms; Eco Design & Build and the International Pavilions) where leaders within each sector will aim to further reflect and explore trends.

HIGHLIGHTS

Interiors

Attracting the attention of architects, interior designers and trend-spotters, the Interiors section is the place to be inspired by innovative product launches and world-famous designers.

Alongside the interiors bar – a new feature for the show – the Super Design Market promises to be an exciting and bustling part of 100% Design 2013. It will present a leading selection of interiors accessories products and designers. Drawn from across a range of disciplines including ceramics, fabrics, glassware and plastics the products selected to exhibit will reflect leading trends and techniques in both limited batch and mass-produced accessories.

At the Interiors hub, you will find The Home Factory (Daniel Widrig Studio/Concept Lounge with iMakr), a concept living space that demonstrates both the impact of 3D printing in an

interior setting and to showcase some of the best interior products submitted for 3D printing from a creative brief broadcast around the world.

Kitchens & Bathrooms

The only kitchens and bathrooms show during the LDF, this popular section is critical to every self-builder interested in the latest and greatest concepts and designs. If it wasn't already a must, the Kitchens & Bathrooms hub will house the Farm Kitchen Restaurant.



FARM KITCHEN

The concept of a Farm Kitchen reflects the ever developing technology and product ranges that embrace ecological architecture, and micro agriculture as a key part of developing sustainability in cities, better use of space and micro food production that connects production and consumption. The space is a collaboration between Mette Creates, a small multi-disciplinary practice, and Architecture and Food, a specialist agency with a distinct curatorial approach that draws together different products under the Farm Kitchen theme.

Eco, Design & Build

From materials to technology, surfaces to fittings, components to finishes, the rich nature of materials comes to life for 2013. The Materials Atelier at the Eco, design & Build hub brings

back a strong presence for materials and material technology into the show. The space, designed by Material Lab will provide visitors with the opportunity to experience materials directly and participate in a series of talks, workshops and events about a huge array of materials and their application.

The award-winning layout of the 100% Design means there is little chance of missing the key features and exhibitions dotted around. One that's particularly worth mentioning is

The Gateway exhibition, a new feature at 100% Design 2013, providing opportunities for early-career designers to be recognised at the show. Working with some of the UK's leading design organisations, Gateway links the two Earls Court spaces. Initiatives include Delight in Light with the Lighting Industry Association, Future Pioneers with Design Council and a showcase of recent Royal College of Art graduates. Gateway also highlights established British excellence through Design Guild Mark alongside special exhibits from leading UK architectural institutions.

Along the show's central boulevard, Emerging Brands provides a platform for design companies that have been in operation for five years or less; showcasing new products and ideas for interior and product design.

If you are a self-builder or you're designing or managing a self-build project, 100% Design will inspire you in many aspects of your project, all in one place.

For more on the select features we've listed, information on those we haven't and updates on the talks and seminars itinerary go to:

www.100percentdesign.co.uk

Opening times: Wed, Fri 10am-7pm (Trade) Thu 10am-9pm (Trade) Sat 10am-6pm (Public day)! 100% Design is open to the public on Saturday 21 September. Children under 16 will not be admitted on trade days.

DATES FOR 100% DESIGN
Wednesday 18
September to Saturday
21 September,
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London

Get your ticket now by visiting
www.100percentdesign.co.uk
and following the registration instructions

Find 100% Design @designlondon and Talks With 100% Design @talkswithdesign on Twitter

Dickies



Dickies is proud to announce the UK Worker of the Year 2013 competition, which launched on 15 April 2013 to find Britain's top workers and ultimately the UK Worker of the Year. As a builder you need to be highly protected. As a result of the demands placed on personal protective clothing and equipment, Dickies supplies only the highest quality products. UK Worker of the Year is a competition that seeks to recognise and reward the British workforce. UK Worker of the Year 2013 is sponsored by Dickies, in association with Suzuki and TTC. This year's winner will be able to take home a Suzuki Swift car.

Tel: 01761 419419 www.dickieseuropa.com

Enq. 134

Dr. Martens



Introducing the 101 ST boot – a classic style designed and developed from the Dr. Martens archive and based on a traditional policeman's boot from the 1970s. With six eyelets, the style has a slightly lower height than a traditional boot, but is still sturdy and dependable, made with high-quality industrial-strength leather in cherry red or black with a steel-toe cap. A hard-wearing air-cushioned sole unit and Smartmask® PU-cushioned footbed ensure total comfort and durability. Dr.

Martens boots have a long history with Industrial workers, and were cited as standard uniform for the police, back in the day.

Tel: 0845 437 3141 www.drmartens.com/industrial

Enq. 135

Everbuild



Clear Fix – a new adhesive from Everbuild Building Products – is clearly set to take the building industry by storm with its innovative, eye catching clear cartridge and seriously good adhesive qualities! Clear Fix is a clear hybrid polymer grab adhesive that has the ability to bond just about everything in both interior and exterior applications. It is a versatile product that can be used in almost every application imaginable – particularly for jobs that require an invisible finish – even

when immersed in water! Even more, Clear Fix comes in a completely clear cartridge, which illustrates the true clarity of the product.

Tel: 0113 240 2424 www.everbuild.co.uk

Enq. 136

HIPPO™



Striking yellow HIPPOBAGS™, from HIPPO™, are being used to provide the waste clearance service for the second series of ITV's garden makeover show *Love Your Garden* with Alan Titchmarsh. HIPPO was selected for use on the programme because it offers a nationwide network for efficient collection, 90 per cent waste recycling and on-site space saving. For the building and gardening trades HIPPO not only offers cost savings over the use of skips. The flexible material

takes more waste than the equivalent sized skip, saving money too, typically between 15 per cent and 30 per cent.

Tel: 0870 880 2430 www.hippobag.co.uk

Enq. 137



muck-truck®, as the 1st company with this concept, has proven to be a market leader in pedestrian power barrows. Our products are recognized globally by industries in Rental, construction, landscaping, recreation parks and utility sectors. We offer products that are manufactured to the highest quality. The MAX Dumper™ provides 46% greater weight-carrying capacity, maintaining the compact features that give our products greater maneuverability and accessibility over other dumpers. The MAX Dumper™ can carry 800lbs/8cu foot and will climb a 30° slope fully loaded. The machine is fitted with the Honda GXV Commercial grade 5.5hp engine. The Tecumseh drive axle has 4 forward and 1 reverse gears.



Tel : 01566 777140
www.mucktruck.co.uk

Enq. 138

Redbacks



An award winning, non-foam based, pocketed safety kneepad "can help prevent up to six months down time and subsequent loss of earnings through knee injury in the workplace". The claim comes from Cliff Lockyer, CEO of CL-7 Limited, the Daventry, Northamptonshire based manufacturers of the new UK designed, Redbacks cushioning kneepads, which are winners of the '2012 SATRA Best Innovation in Occupational PPE Award'. "It is vital that in order to avoid

costly down-time, anyone who spends any time working on their knees should ensure that they have the best possible knee protection".

Tel: 01327 702104 www.redbackskneepads.co.uk

Enq. 139

Snickers



Snickers' revolutionary new XTR Kneepads take cutting edge knee protection to a completely new level. They're ergonomically designed and made from the advanced D30 material, which stiffens on impact and absorbs impact energy to reduce the effects of kneeling while you're working. D30 is an active and specially engineered material made up from 'intelligent' molecules that move as you do, but on shock will lock together to absorb impact energy. What's more,

this highly durable material has an extremely low compression rate. The advanced pre-bent design of these Kneepads combines a soft but sturdy outer with high-tech, shock-absorbent D30 on the inside.

Enq. 140



SPECIAL DISCOUNT – LIMITED PERIOD ONLY!

From 15th July – 13th September, Internorm offers you a sensational summer offer with a special discount on the UPVC and UPVC/aluminium window KF200



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I-tec Glazing



Reader
Enquiry
141



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Why **brick** is the right material



Simon Hay of the Brick Development Association discusses why the age-old material remains the best choice of cladding for today's developments

‘Traditional’ construction continues to be the favoured method of working for the majority of UK housebuilders

Back in the early boom years for British self-build, bricklayers would be among the first trades that any serious consortium or group of aspiring housebuilders would look to recruit; along with a plumber and plasterer.

The trade remains a highly skilled and well populated profession, while the material itself is still a first choice for the majority of domestic developments, as well as the wider home-buying public; thanks to its many beneficial characteristics coupled with an enduring aesthetic appeal.

Commercial architects, always looking to their own legacy, are constantly experimenting with new cladding systems, and all too often encountering technical problems, including poor acoustic performance or resistance to physical damage and condensation risk.

Not only has brick and block construction been proven down the generations to be structurally strong, durable, breathable and trouble-free, if built correctly, but the manufacturers – along with bodies like the Modern Masonry Alliance and Brick Development Association –

have worked to ensure it can still comply with all current performance criteria.

A competent bricklaying contractor should be able to take the build process from the footings, through the erection of the fully or partially filled cavity walls, to plate level where the roof trusses are fixed. This strategy could also include the erection of all interior partitions to help achieve a highly effective superstructure, offering excellent thermal and acoustic performance as well as fire resistance and other physical characteristics, and all at a predictable cost per sq m, for labour and materials.

In fact, ‘traditional’ construction continues to be the favoured method of working for the majority of UK housebuilders, even when they are targeting the higher levels – the Code for Sustainable Homes or the German PassivHaus standard. Meanwhile brick as a material is given an A+ rating from the highly influential BRE Green Guide, reflecting the fact the product is formed from naturally occurring clay or concrete, which remain plentiful while manufacturers continue to cut energy usage. Furthermore,





tions formed in it prior to being cut to length. The resulting bricks are available in a very wide selection of colours and textures.

Visiting historic buildings like Hampton Court, or foreign countries, show us how brick sizes and proportions have varied greatly, while some UK manufacturers today produce what are referred to as 'linear' or elongated bricks.

Even without such variations, and the 'specials' that are available for window cills or other applications, the basic brick can still be laid in a great number of different patterns, known as bonds. The bricks are bedded in mortar with different overlaps – sometimes place crossways as headers or upright in what is termed a 'soldier course'.

Taken in conjunction with all the colours, textures and potential design combinations, the choice of bond pattern and even the different options possible for pointing, brickwork really does become an infinitely variable medium.

Self-builders will not only find local planners and potential neighbours generally willing to look favourably on brick as the chosen cladding for a project, but also that the smaller contractors feel comfortable working with it.

Add to this all the technical help and expertise that is available from brick manufacturers or the Brick Development Association, then opting for a brick built envelope offers a financially sound, environmentally responsible and aesthetically pleasing route to a successful development, with the potential to last a lifetime and more.

Enq. 142

brick is one of the most commonly recycled materials across the construction industry.

Another important consideration, from the aspect of sustainability and energy consumption, is thermal mass. While timber frame and other lightweight solutions suffer from overheating in hot weather, masonry construction has the ability to store and dissipate heat energy over longer periods.

Brick types

With brick manufacturers mainly utilising clay dug from deposits on their own doorstep, the various brick types available also reflect the country's diverse geology, with different colours and mineral content, as well as the production process employed, helping to make brick a truly

expressive material.

While all bricks were originally hand made in wooden moulds, this labour intensive process is mainly confined to the production of bespoke ranges nowadays; what is also known as the 'soft mud' process also sees large scale machine production where the units are turned out, dried and then fired.

Pressed bricks are also machine made using a semi-dry mix with the bricks being conveyed to the kilns after sanding and texturing to get the desired appearance. Flettons, also known as London Bricks, are produced in this manner.

Extruded or 'wire-cut' bricks represent the most modern method of manufacture, where the clay is squeezed through a steel die to produce a column of clay which can then have perfora-

The challenge of **Chitterman** – Stage 1

Marrying the old with the new is an age old problem for the self-builder, but at a project in Leicestershire, contractor Pearson Properties has been able to seamlessly combine history and cutting edge environmental benefits using products from Schlüter-Systems.



Chitterman House will be constructed in several stages that will result in a completely new property

Appointed by the owner to radically transform a 19th century building into a contemporary family home, this renowned contractor will oversee the installation of Schlüter's revolutionary products, which will contribute towards creating an energy efficient eco-friendly house.

Built in 1887, Chitterman House will be constructed in several stages that will result in a completely new property rising up from the foundations of the original house. Located to the north of Leicester, the house will keep the original front

walls, while the rest of the property will be completely rebuilt and boast sustainable qualities.

Consisting of two floors, the main house will accommodate a much bigger space, with five bedrooms and 6,000 sq ft of living space planned, while the outbuildings will provide a gymnasium, games room and garage. Commencing development at the beginning of this year, this extensive self-build project will be completed in a number of phases starting with the outbuildings, moving on to the main house, with final

completion set for spring 2014. However, as Tony Pearson of Pearson Properties explains, this wasn't a straightforward self-build project.

"When first being briefed about the project, the owner had a clear vision that energy efficiency should be the clear priority while still providing a home and external buildings that could be enjoyed by the whole family. Although with any self-build, time and cost also come into the equation, achieving a sustainable property was the clear aim.

"Heating the home is one of the biggest factors when it comes to energy efficiency, therefore an underfloor heating system became the obvious answer when heating a large living area or room. This is down to the fact that heating from the floor upwards ensures the room temperature rises steadily and with the heating being at floor level there is an even distribution of heat, leaving no cold spots."

On the finished installation, Tony adds: "The completed installation within the outbuildings has proved amazingly straightforward and with help from Schlüter's representatives the whole process has been quick and easy to implement.

The next stage of the Chitterman House project involves the construction of the main house from the ground up, along with the installation of underfloor heating, several wetrooms also using Schlüter-Systems, and the use of sustainable materials.



Chosen thanks to its clever heating features, the Schlüter-Systems underfloor heating has now been fully installed within the outbuildings, including a small wetroom within the gymnasium.

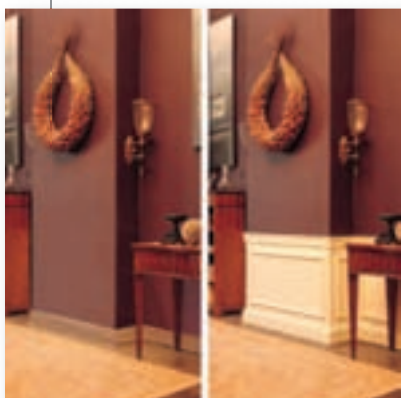
Enq. 143

1

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Adding fine quality mouldings is the easiest way to introduce a stylish new room design. Stoves Online's unique range of traditional and contemporary features are simple to fit, beautiful to look at, and perfect in design. Fitted in top hotels and developments worldwide these decorative mouldings will transform any room from 'average' to 'stunning'. Made to top quality European design standards and available from stock. Call for brochure or samples quoting SBH.

Enq. 146



2

STOVES ONLINE

If you require an automated heating and hot water system, and like to save money and have a real fire, then a Klover wood pellet stove is the solution. Running at more than 90 per cent efficiency, and with the same level of automation as an oil or gas boiler, they are a reliable, low carbon heat source that will effortlessly take care of all your heating and hot water needs. Whatever the purpose, it takes you off the grid and onto automated, low cost wood heating.

Enq. 145



editor's focus

3

QUOOKER

Quooker has launched the stunning new Nordic, a dedicated boiling water tap, which is available exclusively through Quooker's kitchen dealer network. The Nordic comes in two models, the Nordic square and the Nordic round, each of which is available in either chrome or brushed chrome finish. The new Nordic is packed with Quooker innovations. Each Quooker tap has full height adjustment and 360° rotation with both a push-and turn safety handle and a visual signal.

Enq. 144

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Timber Windows

Enq. 147



Specflue

At the Energy Efficiency show renewable energy specialist Specflue will be exhibiting its comprehensive range embracing its exclusive distributor status of the respected Italian MCZ range of biomass and pellet fueled stoves and boilers.

These out-perform gas and oil saving up to 80 per cent of costs compared to traditional fuel boilers and they contribute to the appeal of their interior location.

All are easy to use and come in attractive designs and colours. In turn the pioneering HEATBANK® is a clever thermal system which represents advanced renewable heat energy storage via all manner of natural sources – up to five at the same time – which can be utilised to provide domestic hot water and central heating.

The heat energy is transferred to mains water by a plate heat exchanger. For energy saving a thermal store can generate three times as much hot water in the same time as a gas boiler.

Specflue also provides a solar thermal product range and all relevant solid fuel and renewable training courses at their superb Sudbury facility.

Enq. 148



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1ST
FOLDING
Enq. 149

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Enq. 150

Energy Efficiency Exhibitions

incorporating **Renewables** Roadshow

TIMES & LOCATIONS

Westpoint Arena, Exeter - 10 Sept
Ricoh Arena, Coventry - 12 Sept
Metro Arena, Newcastle - 17 Sept
Highland Centre, Edinburgh - 19 Sept
Sandown Park, Surrey - 24 Sept
Event City, Manchester - 26 Sept

AWARDS

Ricoh Arena, Coventry
- 12 Sept



2013 SHORTLIST

<http://energyefficiencyexhibitions.co.uk/shortlist/>

Save energy & money this winter

When the weather worsens and energy bills inevitably rise, energy efficiency will become a necessity

After another winter of lower temperatures and higher bills, energy efficiency is no longer a 'nice to have', but a financial necessity. By visiting the Energy Efficiency Exhibitions, your business and your customers can profit from implementing energy saving solutions from September onwards.

So, whether you're keeping an eye on energy monitoring, insulating against future costs through a fabric first approach, or optimising output of high efficiency heating systems, the award-winning Energy Efficiency Exhibitions has all the answers. With hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of advice on offer, it is an invaluable visitor experience and as tickets are subsidised by an exceptional list of exhibitors, you won't have to pay a penny to profit.

What's more, with the unique format of the Energy Efficiency Exhibitions, whether you are in Edinburgh or Exeter, Manchester or the Midlands,

these exhibitions access all areas of the UK.

Event director Dan Caesar had this to say: "Over the next few years, our industry has a once in a lifetime opportunity to offer our customers, significant financial savings thanks to energy efficient & renewable technologies. As well as the high quality of this year's exhibition, we invest more than any other organiser in our educational programme of attractions, demonstrations and presentations, so we can promise visitors a very profitable day."

This year's visitor attractions include four

theatres filled with presentations – the Commercial & Green Deal Theatres will be returning and they will be supplemented with the RHI & Policy Theatres. Plus, this year the Energy Efficiency Exhibitions will include an increased number of demos, hosted in the Energy Efficiency & Renewables Demo-Stations and there will be a new interactive visitor attraction entitled, Hands-on Heat Pumps.

The Energy Efficiency & Renewables Awards, supported by NatWest, has established itself in recent years as 'the one to win'. With scores of successful businesses now on the shortlist – an achievement in itself – industry is now eagerly anticipating the evening itself.

This year's ceremony will be hosted by Nick Hewer from the BBC's *Apprentice* and Channel 4's *Countdown*. Not only will Nick will be ably assisted by his *Countdown* co-host Rachel Riley, but also, the evening's entertainment will be enriched by not one, but two, comedians.

What's more the opening address at the Energy Efficiency & Renewables Awards is due to be delivered by the Minister of State for Energy & Climate Change, Greg Barker MP.

So for an exceptional evening of entertainment book your table today to avoid disappointment: team@energiseevents.co.uk

To register for your FREE tickets, visit
www.energyefficiencyexhibitions.co.uk

To receive regular updates follow @EnergyEfficExpo on Twitter



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Enq. 151

Garador



built around a galvanised steel box section chassis, it provides the ultimate impact resistance.

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Enq. 152

Synseal



When it was launched in 2011 K2's Capella fulfilled the simple promise of providing a single integrated internal bracket and aluminium gutter. Since then it has become a firm favourite and is now installed in hundreds of conservatories throughout the UK. Now K2 designers have evolved Capella to provide a number of internal and external options, while maintaining the inherent simplicity for which it became so popular. Internal options now include single and double bracket PVC-U soffits,

which offer a highly cost-efficient solution to giving a conservatory an authentic orangery look. In addition to superb aesthetics the option also provides homeowners with the ability to install low-voltage downlighters.

Enq. 153

Think outside the white plastic box with PVC-U windows from Swish

PVC-U windows don't just have to be white and square. Modern PVC-U windows from Swish can be custom-designed to enhance any property.

Available in a wide range of styles, shapes and sizes as well as beautiful colours and wood effects, our energy-efficient windows, doors and conservatories are installed by our nationwide network of expert local installers.

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Enq. 154

July/August 2013

Sustainable Selfbuild Supplement



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optimum balance of a technical specification that's exactly right for the UK climate, coupled with low energy consumption - for lower heating bills!

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Enq. 301

CLEARVIEW STOVES

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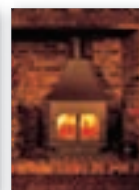


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Some of our benefits include:

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Enq. 302



Plastic piling: **Planet 14** uses an innovative plastic pile system which is made from 100 per cent recycled plastic. It is also manufactured solely in the UK.

The product is non-degradable and lends itself perfectly to the reinstatement of river banks, ponds, lakes, moats, jetties and marinas or where water erosion may occur.

This product is strong and very eco-friendly – no wildlife can be affected by this product.

Planet 14 is able to supply the plastic pile system or supply and install.

Enq. 324



Total Home Environment:

Electrolux Central Vacuums are quiet, quick and easy to use with no heavy kit to lug about, as the main unit is hidden away in a utility room, cupboard or garage.

This location ensures that they have more suction power than a portable to remove dustmites, dirt, pollen and pet hair with no recirculation of dust thanks to the permanent self-cleaning GORE-TEX filter. Pipe is routed to wall inlets in the hall or landing where you plug in the hose and vacuum. Using less electricity than a portable they perform effectively for 20 years+ and only need emptying annually. From £628!

Enq. 307



Supplying the trade and public for over 30 years, **Wykeham Mature Plants** has an extensive range of trees, shrubs, hedging and conifers in large sizes for instant effect.

Staff at Wykeham are experts in providing customers with instant screening for privacy and security, whether the job requires carefully selected trees, mature hedging, or plants clipped or trained in some way specifically to address the issues on-site, and their professionally executed design and planting services are available to both private and commercial clients.

Enq. 315



Solo Timber Frame is a designer, engineer and builder of sustainable timber frame houses for self-builders and independent property developers.

The company offers three levels of timber frame wall, with U values ranging from 0.15 to 0.22, suited to all budgets and requirements. All the frames are manufactured using FSC certified timber and only taken from well managed and certified forests.

Solo is unique as the only company in the timber frame industry which is a member of the Trading Standards Buy with Confidence Scheme, a list of businesses approved by Trading Standards who provide a reliable and quality service.

Enq. 316



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Enq. 303

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Enq. 304

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Enq. 305

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Enq. 306

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

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award winning product.

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Enq. 307



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Enq. 308



SIPS@CLAYS is a family firm and it has been designing, engineering, manufacturing and erecting SIPs homes for over 10 years. Sips offer the ultimate form of sustainability by virtually removing the requirement for Space heating.

Not only do Sips offer extremely low 'U' values, reduced thermal bridging, but by the very nature of the construction method SIPs give an airtight fabric with air pressure test results as low as 1m³/hour/m² common place. With the added benefits of room in the roof and a quick build time on-site it seems that SIPs are the future of sustainable building in the UK.

The company has numerous case studies to view on its website, and it welcomes your enquiries.

Enq. 314



Now with 30 years' experience with manufacturing heat recovery ventilation systems in the UK **Rega** continue to develop new high efficiency products.

The latest range of central air units achieve over 90 per cent heat recovery and specific fan power levels as low as 0.51 w/l/s.

In addition to maximising efficiency special measures have been taken to ensure low noise operation including sound breakout lining of the central air unit and anti-vibration mounting cradles.

When the air unit is combined with Rega's acoustic duct products a quietly running system is guaranteed.

Enq. 301



The growers of Enviromat sedum matting, from **Q-Lawns**, has produced a downloadable guide to creating a simple green roof.

The document, which is free of charge, explores optimum pitch, loadings and drainage before explaining, step by step, the build up for a small sedum green roof.

There is also a section on seasonal green roof maintenance.

For your free copy, please go to www.enviromat.co.uk/green-roof-installation-guide

Enq. 308



For all those 'hands-on' self-builders (and those unsure about whether they have the skills to undertake the structural work themselves), **Polarwall** is offering a FREE online builder training programme. Polarwall is a leading Insulated Concrete Formwork system which is ideal for low energy housebuilding and also for building basements. Training manager, Alex Hansen, said "We would never say this is 'childs play' – it is concrete formwork. But if a person has basic carpentry skills then we can show them how to build the nearest thing to structural perfection – incredibly warm, exceptionally strong, and with great sound insulation. Our clients do not have any build disasters as we always have one of the Polarwall technical team on-site."

Enq. 305

Can a heat pump reduce costs and help meet planning legislation?



The Renewable Solutions Provider
Making a World of Difference

The Code for Sustainable Homes is just one of the challenges that new technologies need to overcome.

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Enq. 309

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Enq. 310



Specflue

The recently announced exclusive distributorship of the famous MCZ brand by Specflue in the UK has been tangibly underwritten by the 4th Carbon Budget target of 100,000 biomass boilers in the UK by 2020 and rising to 1 million by 2030. This relates to the sector's meaningful and positive collaboration with government on the decarbonisation of domestic heating in the UK by 2030. Biomass boilers generate heat for space and water heating through the combustion of organic matter. Domestic installations, with efficiencies of over 90 per cent, are typically fuelled by wood pellets. Wood pellets are a carbon neutral fuel as the carbon dioxide released through combustion is equal to or less than the carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere during the growing process (photosynthesis). Notable and relevant MCZ product portfolios include advances in the popular Compact range and the unique 'Still' concept which ensures total operating silence via a continuously geared motor, specially designed shock absorbers and a pellet tank completely separate from the smoke fan for maximum relaxation. The heat is diffused naturally by a convection transmission method and an attractive large flame creates the pleasant effect of burning wood.

Enq. 311

**Workable.
Reliable.
Sustainable.**

HYPERLIME HYDRAULIC LIMES

A sustainable, highly CO₂ absorbing drop-in replacement for cement or gypsum binders in mortars, plasters and renders. HyperLime is UK manufactured under ISO 9001:2008 and CE marked so compliant with UK building regulations and major warranty providers.



Even better, HyperLime offers significant cost savings over other sustainable binders, mixing easily to give a very workable texture.

Mortar, plaster and render made with HyperLime is water stable and breathable, providing essential structural flexibility.

To find out more visit hyperlimeco.com or telephone Limeco on 01833 689 005

LIMECO

Enq. 312

OAK MANTEL BEAMS

The Original Railway Sleeper Furniture



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Handmade furniture using stunning redundant railway sleepers from around the world

Enq. 313



Mitsubishi Electric has introduced three split Ecodan heating systems that can work in conjunction with a gas or oil boiler as a hybrid system, automatically calculating which technology to run at any one time. The system switches between the heat pump and an alternative heating source, based on run cost or CO₂ output and provides an easy, low carbon solution for owners with a working oil or gas heating system who still need to meet renewable energy targets. "These new Ecodan models allow us to offer even more flexibility of design and functionality, ensuring that more of the nation's buildings can benefit from low carbon heating," explains John Kellett, Mitsubishi Electric's heating general manager.

Enq. 309



Jarabosky is a most distinctive brand. The company's furniture is a cross-over between art and functionality. Transformed from redundant hardwood railway sleepers from around the world into stunning pieces. Natural imperfection is the major attraction in all the furniture. Balance and proportion then display this to amazing effect. The new range 'The Classic', combines this together with the added dimension of glass and stainless steel to give a modern edge. Beautifully sculptured designs are enhanced by the chunky toughened glass, which allows the individual piece to be viewed from all angles. The Classic range has been designed to meet most clients size requirements, from reasonably small to very large.

Enq. 313



Limeco is a UK company dedicated to development and manufacture of HyperLime® hydraulic lime binders as sustainable alternatives to cement and gypsum for the masonry construction industry. Simply mix HyperLime with aggregate and water to prepare mortars, plasters and renders that are easy to use, highly workable, quick setting, flexible, breathable and absorb lots of atmospheric CO₂ when curing – a typical CO₂ footprint of HyperLime mortar is 40kg/tonne or up to 80 per cent less emissions than cement/gypsum. HyperLime is cost efficient offering significant savings over other sustainable binders. HyperLime 2, HyperLime 3.5 and HyperLime 5 are sourced and manufactured in the UK under ISO9001:2008.

Enq. 312

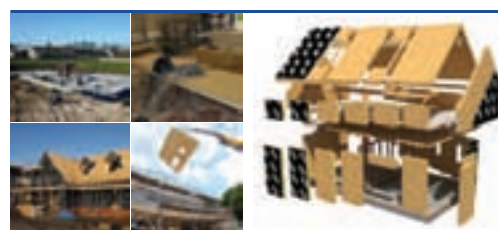


Johnson & Starley's new QuanTec gas fired condensing boiler range includes six models. The QuanTec HR 28c features integral passive flue gas heat recovery for additional energy efficiency. The range provides a robust and cost effective solution to domestic heating and hot water delivery and are available in combi and regular versions from 16kW-28kW. All models feature a Giannoni isothermic stainless steel heat exchanger and, for the HR 28c model, full condense technology with its in-built passive flue gas heat recovery. This increases energy savings of up to 26 per cent over a typical water heater in the market. Indeed, the HR 28c model gives domestic hot water (DHW) efficiency levels not reached before.

Enq. 303



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SIPS
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 21st century homes

Enq. 314



Ice Energy: The recently confirmed launch of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is set to revolutionise the way we heat our homes. Homeowners, landlords & self-builders across Great Britain can qualify for substantial, tax-free, index-linked payments, guaranteed for seven years just for having the foresight to replace their boilers with highly efficient Heat Pumps. For a limited time there is even additional funding available towards installation. This means you could now be in the unique position to install a system which performs so effectively it could reduce your fuel bills by half and recoup the installation costs. Shouldn't you find out more?

Enq. 326



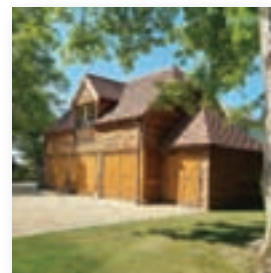
Quantum Property Partnership required a high environmental standard of build for new development, Spark One – a hub for science and technology businesses in the Bristol and Bath region. The environmental criteria included the requirement for a SuDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage System) car park for 200 vehicles. The porous surface would allow rainwater to infiltrate into an attenuated drainage system. BODPAVE 85 from **Fiberweb**, was specified to provide the SuDS source control car park. BODPAVE 85 porous pavers were laid onto a free-draining base, and filled with an angular gravel or grass finish. They are made from recycled plastic and can support loads of up to 400t/m² (when gravel filled).

Enq. 319



We have all felt the pinch during the last few years, which is why so many homeowners have turned to renewable & sustainable energy to heat and power their homes. Not only are these technologies eco-friendly, but they can also help save you thousands of pounds each year – and even begin to earn you money with the government's incentive schemes! Eco Friendly Installations are able to offer the full scope of services required to design, install & commission a renewable energy system so you can start earning money from your home today. If you would like to find out more about how to make your house pay for itself, then please feel free to contact **Eco Friendly Installations Ltd** and they will be happy to discuss your project or answer any questions you may have.

Enq. 323



With a range of single storey, lofted and two storey timber outbuildings, and an 'in-house' design, planning and building control team, **Courtyard Designs** has more than 20 years experience of turning customers dreams into beautifully crafted Oak-framed reality.

Using the finest quality sustainably sourced materials, Courtyard Designs' bespoke buildings and joinery are manufactured by specialist craftsmen in their Herefordshire workshops. On-site erection and roofing by their dedicated, committed and very experienced teams, is often completed within a matter of days.

Barn-style Oak outbuildings by Courtyard Designs Ltd are beautiful, practical and durable, and come with a 10-year guarantee, from as little as £12,000.

Enq. 310



Wykeham Mature Plants

transform your landscape, mature trees, hedges & shrubs

Screening and Instant Hedging

Do you have a client who requires screening for immediate privacy or security?




After 1 day planting!

The difference between Wykeham instant hedging and plants supplied by other nurseries is clear to see.




Where a hedge or fence of a more usual height just isn't enough, such as where privacy has become a real problem or where there is an unsightly view, there is a range of evergreen or deciduous screening available to provide cover at higher levels.

Wykeham Mature plants grow a range of mature instant hedging plants in a range of species to suit most sites and aspects. Our instant hedging offers:

- Immediate screening and privacy
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- Solutions to planning issues
- A range of varieties to suit all pockets and growing situations

www.wykehammatureplants.co.uk
01723 862406

Enq. 315



Design and Planning



Watertight Frame Erection



2nd Fix Items Supplied



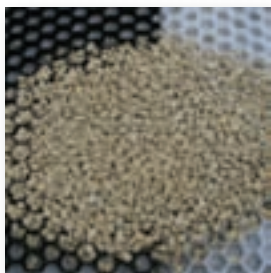
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info@solotimberframe.co.uk
www.solotimberframe.co.uk

Enq. 316



Gravel is one of the most attractive, economical and versatile surfaces on earth. But without help, it's inclined to move around, creating ridges and ending up where it shouldn't. **COREgravel** is the solution! It creates a naturally porous stabilising base into which the gravel sits – and stays! It's easy to lay, inexpensive and very, very effective.

Beginning in February 2010, CoreGravel has firmly established itself within the competitive gravel industry, and has quickly developed a reputation for exceptional value and quality. Their products are now Available at leading garden centres and branches of Selco, Jewson, Travis Perkins, Burdens and Keyline Builders Merchants nationwide.

Enq. 317



Plan now for your warmest Winter ever

Now is the time to ensure your warmest winter ever by installing a **Clearview** woodburning stove. It can take up to eight weeks from choosing a stove to its installation, so plan ahead and beat the rush.

Clearviews stoves combine stunning styling and exceptional quality. Designed and manufactured in Shropshire to the highest possible specifications, in a range of sizes to suit most installations.

A Clearview woodburning stove will save you money and bring you great pleasure, lifting your spirits as well as the temperature.

Enq. 302



Incorporating an efficient under floor heating system is simpler with **ScreedBoard**® from **Collecta**. The board's low thermal resistance ($0.05\text{m}^2/\text{kW}$) allows heat to spread evenly through the floor and provide occupants with optimal warmth under foot. Suitable for new build, refurbishment and conversion projects **ScreedBoard**® is able to accept various floor finishes including ceramic tiles (once primed), laminate flooring, vinyl and carpet making it ideal for a multitude of floor applications. **ScreedBoard**® also features excellent sound proofing performance when installed as an acoustic system and is compliant with Robust details EFT-5 and EFT-6. Additional benefits include its 20/28mm low profile and its ability to be cut with a hand or skill saw.

Enq. 304



Aluminium Roofline Products Ltd, a specialist manufacturer of extruded, pressed or cast aluminium roofline products offering the highest standards of performance, aesthetics and durability.

Aluminium Roofline Products is also the home to the **Mustang**® 125mm aluminium guttering system – roll formed on-site up to 30 metres in length with no joints, creating a neat, maintenance free product of the highest quality.

No joints = No leaks, **Mustang**® – the only BBA approved seamless gutter system.

Enq. 325

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Enq. 317

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Enq. 318

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Christmas

BEST OF BRITISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

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NetMAGevents, in association with the British Homes Awards, invite you to see out 2013 in style and celebrate the best of British design with your colleagues from the UK's property industry. Join us at this unique event, with entertainment by The Swinging Little Big Band, and be the very first to see the portfolio of stunning designs submitted for the Sunday Times British Homes Awards competition for Britain's Future Home.



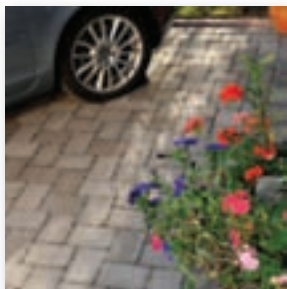
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<http://netmagevents.eventbrite.co.uk/>

Interpave



New guidance from Interpave has been published to help local authorities, surveyors, conveyancing lawyers, designers, contractors, landscapers and other professionals to interpret the new planning Permitted Development rule changes. Before the changes, paving anywhere in a garden related to a house or bungalow, with any materials was considered to be a 'permitted development' – effectively, an automatic planning permission without needing a planning application. But not any more. As awareness of the restrictions grows, there are calls for the legality of recent paving to be covered in conveyancing pre-contract enquiries, home-buyers' reports and valuations.

Enq. 319

Metrotile

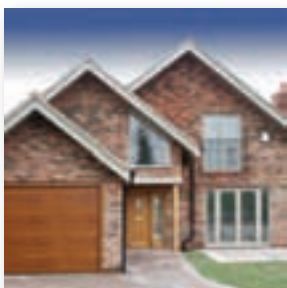


Metrotile Lightweight Steel Roofing is a highly durable and sustainable rooftop solution. Offering a vast selection of benefits that outstrip similar 'traditional' materials such as slate or clay, Metrotile offers green benefits from before building begins. Each profile weighs up to one eighth of equivalent traditional materials, so therefore only requires once seventh of the transportation requirements. The light weight also enables a rapid installation and includes bespoke accessories such as the integrated Photovoltaic System. In addition, the stone-coating is sufficient for rainwater harvesting.

Tel: 01249 658514 www.metrotile.co.uk

Enq. 320

H + H UK Ltd



H+H's innovative R&B Build method has been used for a private self-build project in Bottle Lane, Maidenhead. The property stands on the site of the old house, which was demolished in favour of a masonry build. The client wanted to use masonry and aircrete in particular, as it enables energy efficient homes to be built without resorting to lots of renewables. R&B Build is an inclusive package, which comprises aircrete blockwork and quick-setting Thin-Joint Celfix mortar. It creates the

ground floors, exterior walls, upper floors and partitions, creating a weather-tight masonry shell, for a time-efficient, cost-effective solution. At Bottle Lane, 100mm Standard Grade Jumbo Bloks were used throughout the build.

Enq. 321

IBD Distribution



To extend its range of H&V solutions using renewables, IBD Distribution has been appointed as a distributor for Grant UK wood pellet boilers. As an environmentally friendly, safe and convenient way of heating the home, they will be a natural complement to IBD's existing ranges of ground & air source heat pumps and solar thermal systems while also providing an energy source for the company's other heating and ventilation solutions. Using wood pellets as fuel does not just have environmental advantages. The Grant Spira units are fully automatic and use advanced controls to regulate the amount of fuel being delivered so that it matches precisely the heat demand.

Enq. 322



Radial Drilling & Renewable Energy Specialist

Eco Friendly Installations are specialists in radial drilling and renewable technology. We offer a wide range of services, all completed in-house, which range from system design to bore hole installation. Please call our offices for more information.

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- **Wood Stoves & Back Boilers**
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Enq. 323

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www.planet14landscapes.co.uk

Enq. 324



When it comes to choosing Aluminium Gutters & Pipes, it's as simple as **ARP**

There is a large range of gutter profiles including, half round, beaded, beaded deep flow, ogee and box.

Our complimentary range of pipes are available in diameter, square and rectangular profiles with flush joint, swaged or cast collars.

ARP also offer the Mustang Seamless gutter system offering up to 30 metres in one length giving a smooth uninterrupted appearance. The only BBA approved system.

Visit our website for the complete range, or ask for one of our Technical Product Guides www.arp-ltd.com

For more information about our specification service, call today on **0116 289 4400** or email us at **sales@arp-ltd.com**

Enq. 325

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE CONFIRMED



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"Investing for the long term in new renewable heat technologies will mean cleaner energy and cheaper bills."

- Climate Change Minister Greg Barker.



Enq. 326

Diligence International

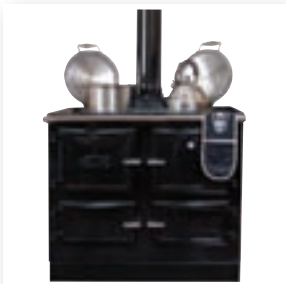


With its name reflecting the open space design for which it is renowned, the Agorafocus from Diligence International can be suspended from the ceiling of a room to radiate warmth through 360°. Suitable also for fixing on a pedestal base, Agorafocus is a spherical-like design with four curved glass windows that give complete sighting of the fire from all parts of a room. Two of these pyroceramic panels are hinged for opening and inserting logs. There are two sizes of this fire

– the 630 and 850 – these numbers denoting the diameter of the fires in mm. With the 630 model, the glass panels measure 280mm high, with the fire itself measuring 700mm from top to bottom.

Enq. 155

Pivot Stove & Heating



Pivot's huge product range will include freestanding and inset stoves, both wood burning and multi-fuel, plus a range of efficient boiler stoves and range cookers. Brands being stocked include the cleanest, most efficient wood fire in New Zealand for 30 years. Other products include thermal stores from McDonald Engineering and stoves from Jetmaster, Westfire and Mendip. Just in time for summer, Pivot is also stocking a range of outdoor pizza ovens. In addition to pizzas,

these wood fuelled ovens are ideal for baking bread, slow cooking casseroles and roasting fish, meat and vegetables.

Tel: 03333 231270 www.pivotstove.co.uk

Enq. 156

KLOVER

Smart 120 wood pellet cooker



All your heating, cooking & hot water

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Enq. 157

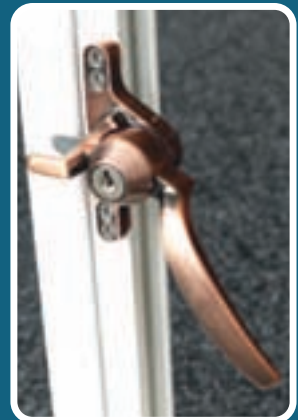
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32.5mm



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Enq. 158

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- Treatment Plants
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Enq. 159



- Highly efficient and controllable stoves, burn wood for longer periods
- The only manufacturer to offer the **Flexifuel** System (patent pending)
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Enq. 160



Why PIR insulation is the **self-builder's** best friend

Dale Kaszycki, marketing manager at Ecotherm Insulation (UK) Limited looks at the benefits of using PIR insulation

One of the most important things you can do when building or renovating your home is to make sure that it is well insulated. Good insulation is the most cost effective way to save energy, keep your heating bills down and create a comfortable environment for you and your family. It is also a crucial step in helping to tackle climate change by reducing CO₂ emissions.

Everything you ever wanted to know about insulation

Picking the best insulation for the job is not as straightforward as you might think, because there are a number of different products out there and they all have very different properties. In the first place they have widely different thermal performances, so you need almost double the amount of some materials to get the same results as the higher performing types. The thing to look out for here is the thermal conductivity, also called the lambda. For example, glass or rock mineral fibre has a lambda of around 0.040 W/mK, whereas PIR is 0.021 W/mK. The lower the figure the less heat is conducted and the better the performance.

There can be hidden costs involved in buying cheaper materials, so choosing the right insulation to get the best energy savings and make the most out of your footprint needs careful consideration. Obviously the thicker the insulation

needs to be the greater the impact on the rest of the build: you could be losing valuable living space; walls have to be thicker, with longer ties or deeper timber studs; eaves and rafters have to be deeper to accommodate the greater thickness, all adding to the costs. Structural loading can become more of an issue, as can space when dealing with refurbishment or a loft conversion. Care needs to be taken not to block air vents and to avoid gaps and thermal bridging. PIR insulation can help to avoid these issues.

Why PIR?

PIR insulation is one of the most efficient materials on the market, so it doesn't need to be anywhere near as thick as some of the more traditional products. It is lightweight and easy to install – you can simply cut it to size with a sharp knife or a saw. There are no irritating loose fibres and air movement or moisture does not affect the performance, so it will carry on saving energy year after year, over the lifetime of the building. It is also extremely versatile, and can be used in roofs, floors and walls.

Here are a few of the most common examples of where and how it can be used.

Roof

Creating a warm roof space has lots of advantages: it can become an additional room, it can prevent the risk of pipes freezing, and it will help

to keep a building cool in the summer as well as warm in the winter. There are two ways of doing this with a pitched roof so as to avoid cold bridges. Cold bridges occur where there are gaps in the insulation, for example if it is interrupted by rafters, which can have a bad effect on the overall performance of the roof.

The first method can be done when a roof is being completely replaced (provided the house is detached, or else the entire run of neighbouring roof is also being replaced) or in a new build situation. This is the 'between and over' method of installing insulation between the rafters, with a continuous layer on top of them, below the finishing slates or tiles. The advantage of this arrangement is that it eliminates cold bridging and also allows maximum use of the loft space.

Where this is not possible, 'between and below' the rafters is equally effective in dealing with cold bridging, and by using a PIR insulated plasterboard as the 'below' element, the amount of headroom is still maximised.

Walls

In a new building the high performance of PIR means that cavity walls can be kept to a reasonable thickness without losing a clear residual cavity to provide protection against driving rain, particularly in coastal and exposed locations. For solid walls or refurbishment projects PIR also

Continued overleaf...

Cold bridges occur where there are gaps in the insulation

provides good solutions either as External Wall Insulation (EWI) behind render or cladding, or internally as part of an insulated plasterboard system. In each case the low lambda of this versatile product means that excellent thermal performance can be achieved with a much lesser thickness than most other insulation materials, keeping that all important living space as roomy as possible.

Floors

Last, but by no means least, a surprising amount of heat can be lost through the floor, and PIR insulation provides a solution that is equally suitable for solid floors under a screed, or under suspended timber floors. It is particularly effective with under floor heating systems, allowing rapid response heating, and helping the system to run more efficiently. Here again, the advantage of such a thin but effective closed cell product means that there is no need to dig down as far for solid floors, there is no need for netting to support it under suspended flooring, and it

will not rot or shrink in damp conditions.

Back to basics

It is tempting to rush to install the latest renewable technologies, but any return on such a major and relatively short lived investment will be far more quickly realised if energy demand

is first reduced. Remember: the most cost effective and reliable way to save energy starts with insulation, which needs no maintenance and quietly continues to perform year on year. With a product as efficient and easy to use as PIR a very well insulated building envelope can easily be yours.

Enq. 161



Did you know?

By choosing to install a **Full-Fill** solution rather than a Partial Fill solution, you could be saving yourself...



For the Full Facts and to find out just how much you could save visit:
knaufinsulation.co.uk/fullfacts



Full-fill glass mineral wool solutions can be the most cost effective option for external walls in order to achieve compliance with Part L of the Building Regulations.

KNAUF INSULATION
 it's time to save energy



with **ECOSE** Technology

Enq. 162

Loft Leg



Compressing insulation with storage items in the loft can reduce its thermal effectiveness by over 50 per cent. Installed in the loft, Loft Legs allow a simple storage deck to be constructed above the height of the insulation, maintaining its energy-saving benefits, a key factor when 40 per cent of a household's heating is lost through the roof. Loft Legs – which featured in an episode of BBC Television's *DIY SOS* last year – are manufactured in the UK from recycled materials, are easy to

install, ultra strong and lightweight. Loft Legs are sold in boxes of 12 and are available instore and online.

Tel: 01282 861001 www.loftleg.com

Enq. 163

Viessmann



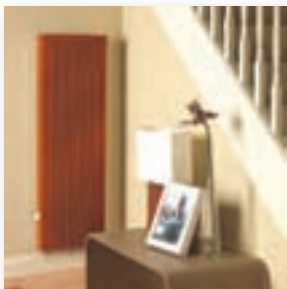
An App which allows remote operation of domestic heating systems is now available for download on Android devices. Heating systems manufacturer, Viessmann, has extended its smartphone App to allow more of its customers to control their domestic heating systems when on the go. Already available for iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch handsets, customers owning Android smartphones and tablets can now download the Vitotrol app. Viessmann says the App is ideal for homeowners

who want to get more from their heating systems and only pay for the energy they need.

Tel: 01952 675000 www.viessmann.co.uk

Enq. 164

EHC



Sales of electric radiators in the UK heating market have increased dramatically over the past few years due to significant improvements in design, performance and controllability. With EHC Electric Radiators homeowners can now have full controllability over their heating system 24/7. Furthermore, EHC can supply their radiators in standard signal white colour for next day delivery with any RAL coloured radiator available 21 days from receipt of order. EHC Electric Radiators are available in various sizes

and outputs from low height conservatory style radiator (340mm high), standard (630mm high), and vertical (1240mm) slimline radiators.

Tel: 01698 820533 www.electric-heatingcompany.co.uk

Enq. 165

KNX



A challenging home automation project at a home with an equine centre in the Scottish Borders has seen two members of the KNX UK Association working closely together. The result is an installation that has fully met the aspirations of the property owners. It has also demonstrated how any electrical contractor in the early stages of using KNX can offer clients all the lifestyle and energy saving benefits of the technology. Beasons of Dolphinton, Peebleshire was established to offer a

complete one-stop shop for technology in the home and commercial buildings. Recognising the potential of KNX, the company achieved KNX Partner status and subsequently became members of the KNX UK Association.

Enq. 166

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HOME CONTROL

Control of:

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and with extra integration...

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Enq. 167

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Enq. 168

Light me up

Michael Linsky, managing director of Sensio, discusses the importance for planning the correct lighting for your project

You want your kitchen to have longevity, so when it comes to lighting, LED's are the future

A well thought-out lighting scheme can dramatically enhance the appearance and usability of any kitchen design. No matter how much or how little you are investing in the kitchen itself, lighting can allow any kitchen to make an impression.

Lighting is often left as an afterthought, but it should be a key consideration during the initial stages of planning your kitchen. There has never been so much choice when it comes to kitchen lighting and choosing the right products can be quite an overwhelming task as there are so many different fixtures and fittings now on the market. However, taking the time to think carefully about the lighting you need will most definitely pay off. It is important that the retailer or manufacturer that you are purchasing the kitchen from discusses the lighting options available to you and specifies lighting that meets your needs and requirements in accordance to how the kitchen is most likely to be used.

You want your kitchen to have longevity, so

when it comes to lighting LED's are the future. Incandescent bulbs are no longer available to purchase and with plans on the horizon to also phase out halogen, LED is the only lighting option that is here to stay, but what's more, it is the most energy efficient and cost-effective source of lighting available.

While the initial cost of purchasing LED lighting for your kitchen is likely to be more than it would be for halogen bulbs, the long-term benefits certainly outweigh this start-up cost. One 20W halogen fitting costs approximately £9.66 per year to run (based on 8 hours usage per day). One 1.65W HD LED fitting will provide the same level of brightness, yet cost only 90p per year to run, resulting in a saving of £8.76 per fitting, per year!

LED's are both lighter on your pocket and kinder to the environment as the wasted energy that is produced is minimal, meaning that your energy consumption is significantly reduced. In fact, 90 per cent of the energy used with





With LED's there's no need to climb up a ladder and change the bulbs, as the chances are the light fittings will outlive the carcass of the kitchen itself!

halogen bulbs is wasted and converted into radiant heat. LED's are a far safer option as they will not over-heat or produce UV or IR rays.

In purchasing LED's you will also eliminate the cost of replacement bulbs as the average lifespan of LED's is approximately 12.5 years, that's 40,000 hours. On average, a halogen bulb will last for around 1.5 years, or 3,000 hours. With LED's there's no need to climb up a ladder and change the bulbs, as the chances are the light fittings will outlive the carcass of the kitchen itself!

In the past, LED's have been thought of as producing a cold, blue light, but this is a thing of the past. LED fittings are now available in a cool white or warm white shade of light and the

option you choose should mainly depend upon the style and finish of the cabinets and work surfaces you have opted for.

Warm white lighting will produce a shade of light similar to that of halogen. It will have a yellowish glow and is well-suited to traditional kitchens as it highlights the grain of the wood in the cabinet doors. It will also complement marble and sandstone work surfaces, which are a popular choice for traditional settings.

If your self-build is the ultimate in modern design and you are fitting a sleek, contemporary kitchen design with high gloss cabinets, cool white lighting is the better option. Providing more of a clinical, bright light, cool white creates a more dramatic effect that suits

the crisp, clean lines and minimalist styling of a modern kitchen.

A good lighting scheme will have an ideal balance of task and mood lighting; however the fittings you include will depend upon the purpose of your kitchen. Task lighting aids the more practical tasks in the kitchen such as food preparation, cooking and cleaning and should be fitted underneath wall-hung cabinets to illuminate work surfaces. It can be purchased in the form of spot or strip lighting. You may want to consider cool white light fittings here, as they will provide a brighter light.

Mood lighting works to create ambience in the kitchen, so if your self-build project consists of an open plan design or includes a kitchen-diner, mood lighting will help to ease the transition between kitchen and living space, or simply transform it from a practical space into an area that can be used for socialising and entertaining by creating a calmer, more relaxed atmosphere.


Situate mood lighting above wall-hung cabinets, along the plinth of base units and also use it to illuminate shelves. If your kitchen design includes an island, placing subtle strip lighting around the base will create a floating effect and will provide your kitchen with a dramatic focal point.

To make your kitchen more user-friendly, you may also want to consider convenience lighting. This comes in the form of in-drawer and in-cabinet lighting to illuminate these areas to help you find the ingredients and utensils you need. Some fittings may have a sensor integrated into the design so that the light automatically turns on when you open the door or drawer, and turns off when you close it to save energy. If the fitting doesn't have a sensor built-in, it is possible to purchase one separately.

Lighting plays an important part in any kitchen design and the results can be seen in not only the way the kitchen looks, but also the way it functions.

Enq. 169



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Enq. 170



James Latham

James Latham is now offering Lifecycle by UPM, a wood-plastic composite decking that has the luxurious look and feel of a real hardwood decking. However, unlike timber decking, with the minimum of maintenance, Lifecycle will continue to look good year after year, in fact, made in the USA, it is backed by a 25-year manufacturers guarantee. A further advantage of Lifecycle over other composite or timber decking is that it has a unique, stain resistant, 'closed-surface' that does not absorb oil, spills or drips – something which, after a few BBQ's or sun-bathing sessions can often make other decks quickly look unsightly. Lifecycle is made from recycled American red and white oak fibres plus polyethylene with a patented process where the fibres are heat treated and encapsulated in a hard polymer shell. This produces an exceptionally solid and stable board. It's also extremely environmentally friendly and sustainable. 95 per cent of the materials used to manufacture the boards are recycled, including the oak fibres and plastic polymers. Plus, giving these high quality materials a second life reduces landfill and waste incineration.

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Enq. 171

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Enq. 173

Pools, Spas & Decking Showcase



2 New Q-Deck Lunawood, thermowood timber decking from **Hoppings**, has undergone a special heat treatment process to make it more durable without chemicals and more stable like cedar. The heat treatment process darkens the wood initially making it look similar to tropical hardwood decking but at a lower price. Q-Deck Lunawood decking comes with a 20-year warranty and has a 30-year expected service life, as endorsed by BRE. This decking has specially profiled grooves to accept Q-Grip slip resistant strips allowing grip to be applied where required. This decking can also be fitted using a quick and easy concealed decking clip, providing a fixing free looking deck.

Enq. 175



Celine with Roman Stairs

1 The Deck Tile Co. has expanded its range of exterior modular flooring systems to include a revolutionary new product range; Levato Mono. Manufactured from double fired, 20mm porcelain stoneware and with rectified edges to create smooth, straight lines, the pavers offer incredible technical performance without compromising on aesthetics. Not only are Levato Mono pavers incredibly attractive, 100 per cent colourfast, highly stain and wear resistant, they are an 'eternal' finish product, meaning they will remain as good as the day they are installed. They are also lightweight yet super strong and highly slip resistant.

Enq. 174



3 Nautilus Pools Ltd is the distributor for the Waterair range of in-ground pools. For 40 years, Waterair Swimming Pools have helped more than 90,000 families across Europe realise what initially appeared to be a dream into an affordable project, adding to their pleasure and well-being every summer. Using exclusive technology, Waterair swimming pools are made from corrugated steel panels (strength equivalent to a 45cm concrete wall), to guarantee mechanical resistance and an exceptional lifetime. There is a choice of 86 models and more than 200,000 possible variations. There is a pool to suit every location and budget.

Enq. 176



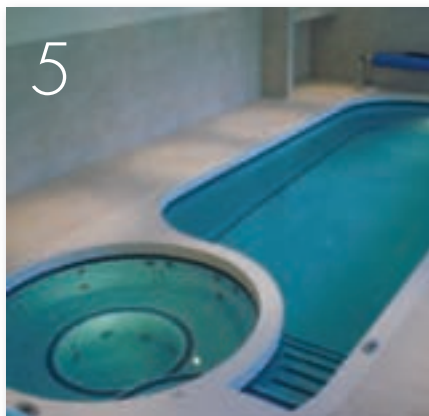
5 Spa De La Mare Ltd continues to hold the accolade of the worlds leading manufacturer of spa pools and swimspas and has recently celebrated its 30th birthday with the launch of the Coliseum II spa, the Piazza II spa and the unique Cleopatra V Swimspa. These luxurious additions to the company's portfolio are proving successful in the company's already bursting catalogue. Its unique, full foam insulation ensures that the spas run economically all year round, a vital quality required for today's clients.

Enq. 178



4 SAiGE Longlife Decking is a supplier of environmentally sourced composite decking in a choice of Charcoal, Redwood, Oak or Light Grey. With its anti-slip properties and resistance to mould and fungus this splinter free product is the ideal solution for decking around swimming pools, natural pools and hot tubs alike. SAiGE Decking comes with a full 10-year warranty and expected lifespan of over 20 years, the boards will not warp or rot and are consistent in size, shape and colour meaning the decking can be fitted easily and enjoyed for years to come.

Enq. 177



6 Arcus Pools & Enclosures make swimming pools for life as well as lifestyle! Made from polypropylene to the size and shape you want, they will last at least 50 years and even have a 20-year warranty. The pools can be supplied either as a one piece unit to fit into a prepared hole, or for larger pools, it will have final assembly on-site. Various step arrangements are available including corner, roman end and lagoon.

Enq. 179

Continued overleaf...

In this issue of Selfbuilder & Homemaker we look at recent trends with pools, spas and decking for your home



7 John Brash's JB Citideck®, a smooth non-slip deck board, was initially developed in conjunction with the inclusivity officer for the Olympics but is now being used for residential projects. The deck boards provide a safe non slip surface, while complementing high design standards. The smooth deck boards are easier to clean as food and debris can't become trapped, making it more suitable for urban and domestic use than traditional grooved boards. The fine aggregate used for the anti-slip inserts in JB CitiDeck® give superior slip resistance without presenting a trip hazard for the less able or children

Enq. 180

8 Heronrib matting, from Plastic Extruders, is a popular choice for barefoot and wet-side applications. Its embossed surface is slip resistant, warm and comfortable to stand on and minimises the risks associated with walking on ceramic and other floors. Another important benefit is that the matting is impregnated with anti-bacterial and anti-fungal additives, which reduce the risk of cross-contamination, making it both safe and hygienic for bare feet. Heronrib is manufactured from hardwearing non-porous vinyl with an open grid construction and channelled underbars, which help water to drain away easily in all directions.

Enq. 181



9 Urbatek part of the Porcelanosa Group recently introduced its new porcelain tile for use in outdoor areas. The technical features of Dublo, create a material that is resistant to the most adverse outdoor conditions. 60x60 cm in size and 20 mm thick, the tile has a non-slip surface that makes this new ceramic paving model the perfect ceramic solution for gardens, terraces, viewpoints, roof terraces, swimming pools, spas, resorts and every type of frequently used outdoor space. Its design also means that it can be installed on all types of surface, depending on the intended use.

Enq. 182

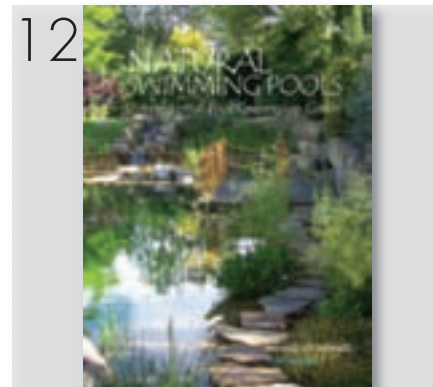


10 Sofpave Limited specialises in the sourcing and supplying of environmentally friendly landscape and building products. All products utilise recycled waste materials making them the perfect sustainable option to help reduce the carbon footprint of any project. In many cases the production process itself reduces the amount of water and oil used, or reduces the amount of sulphur dioxide produced during their manufacture. These products have fantastic environmental credentials and can help address such issues as climate change.

Enq. 183

11 Trex is a beautiful, durable and eco-friendly decking that is guaranteed to last for decades and is extremely resistant to the wear, tear, scratches and stains that go hand-in-hand with outdoor entertaining. With design options to suit any garden, this premium decking is made from 95 per cent recycled materials – including wood scrap and common household plastics like sandwich bags and newspaper sleeves. In addition, it won't rot, warp, crack or splinter, meaning adults and children alike can enjoy going barefoot without worry.

Enq. 184



12 A new book called Natural Swimming Pools: Conventional Pool Conversion Guide by Michael Littlewood has just been published by Ecodesignscape, UK, 2013. The huge interest in natural swimming pools has convinced many owners of a conventional swimming pool to aspire to a natural one. This book was written in response to demand from people all over the world for more information on the subject. It shows how easily conversion can be undertaken, and includes many inspiring examples of completed projects.

Enq. 185



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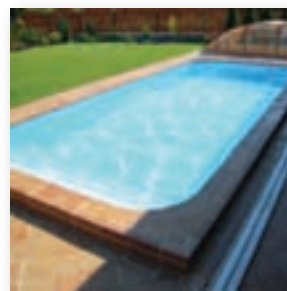
Newly launched is the Selfbuilder & Homemaker Pinterest account; a one stop source of inspiration for adding all the elements to your build that make it your home, from essential fixtures to the final decorative touches.

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.



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Various step arrangements are available; corner, roman end, lagoon etc.

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As well as the bi-monthly magazine, Selfbuilder & Homemaker have an increasingly popular online profile to help keep you up to date with all of the latest products, innovations, inspirational ideas and projects. Newly launched is the Selfbuilder & Homemaker Pinterest page; a one stop source of inspiration. 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 can organise and share all the beautiful things you find on the web. Subscribing to our Selfbuilder & Homemaker Facebook and Twitter pages enables you to easily keep track of all of the latest products, innovations and inspirational ideas and projects.

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Q-DECK LUNAWOOD

New Q-Deck Lunawood thermally modified decking is a cheaper alternative to hardwood and comes with a 20 year warranty. Its grooves take Q-Grip slip resistant strips and it is fitted with concealed clips.

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Enq. 188

Rain, rain, go away!



Dave Osborne, technical manager for Kayflow, explains what to bear in mind when selecting your rainwater system; from the positioning to the number of downpipes

A successful rainwater system doesn't just rely on the right number of downpipes and guttering depths, it works hand in hand with well-appointed, below ground drainage.

There's no denying that rainfall in the UK is increasing. Not only is the country getting wetter, but there's been a change in the nature and frequency of the UK's rain.

This erratic and unpredictable rainfall is causing us to think differently about the way we approach a build – from location and proximity to water and flood risk areas, to the depth and quality of our rainwater products.

Plan, plan, plan

Every self-build project is unique, and so too are the requirements and considerations. A successful rainwater system doesn't just rely on the right number of downpipes and guttering depths, it works hand in hand with well-appointed, below ground drainage.

So consider whether you're connecting to a private or public sewer, a soak-away or a combined sewer. Initially, plans need to suit the depth and location of the underground drain or sewer that you intend to connect to; generally this needs to be at least 0.8m lower than the

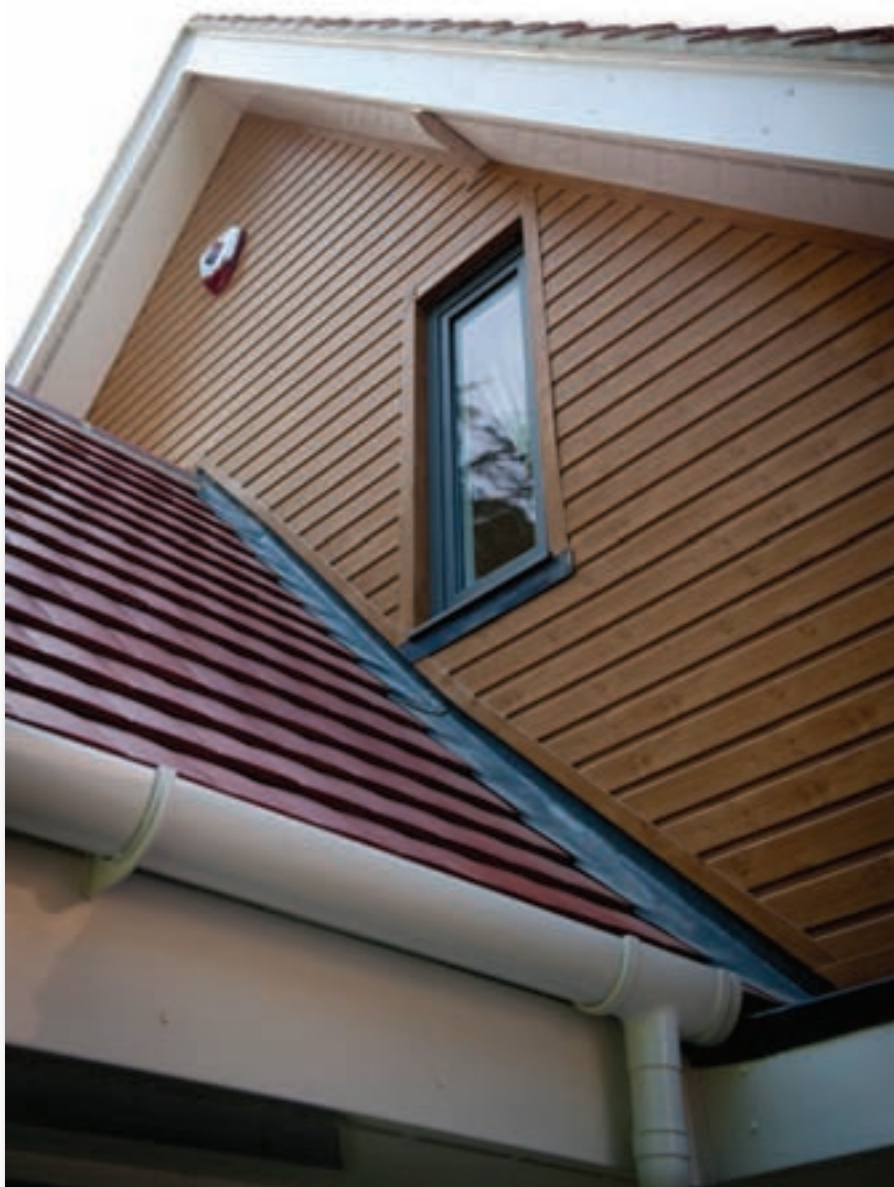
ground floor level. Once this is confirmed, review the number of pre-set, and any additional, downpipes and their positioning. As the water must be carried away from the property, it is recommended that a downpipe doesn't run onto an impermeable surface – tarmacadam for instance. The pipe should either be positioned so that the water flows to the drainage channel or soak away, or should simply soak into the ground (infiltration).

Balancing practicality and aesthetics

Keeping downpipes away from the 'face' of a property is widely considered to be best practise, aesthetically. In the main, downpipes are positioned down the side of the property so that they don't detract from the visual appeal of the building.

However, this means that the water has to flow around a corner. This can cause a slight reduction in the flow rate of the water when compared to a standard installation of a straight line and downpipe. This is something to bear in





Forward thinking
will allow
you to create an
effective and
well-performing
property

of water that flows at a steady, slower moving rate. Again, consider the area and pitch of your roof when choosing gutter depth and the strength of your system.

Tile selection

Tiling trends vary from location to location and are largely dependent on the style of property. Clay, slate, cement, and 'green', alternative roof tiles are all widely available but the factors to look out for are the texture of the material and the shape of the roof tile.

Large, flat, smooth tiles will inevitably cause quicker surface run-off, while textured, contoured roof tiles will be slower. Faster run-off has the potential to cause the water to overshoot the gutter profile, therefore careful consideration should also be given to the depth of the tile – not overhanging, nor falling short of the profile. When choosing your tiles, factor in the pitch of the roof – the higher pitched, faster flowing roof design coupled with large, flat smooth roof tiles would need a strong and deep gutter system, and could even require additional downpipes.

So when you're planning a self-build, think of the bigger picture not just the products and services that are needed at each stage of the development. Forward thinking will allow you to create an effective and well-performing property capable of withstanding the demands of today's climate.

mind but in reality it has little impact on the performance of the system.

Gutter depth

With storm water run-off becoming a regular occurrence, roof and roofline companies have had to react. This has led to the development of products designed to handle a much higher flow rate than a standard guttering system. The market leading flow rate is around 10 litres per second, while also achieving a capacity 10 times that of a standard half round gutter and at least five times more than a standard deep system.

Manufacturers have also seen a move towards ogee and deep gutter profiles. As would be expected, both Scotland and Ireland are the biggest users of deep and ogee styles but as the nature of rainfall continues to change,

a shift in buying trends across England and Wales is starting to mirror this.

System strength

With increased capacity comes an increase in weight and pressure on the fixing system. So in line with the increase in depth, is an increase in strength. So be aware of the strength of your preferred system, could it withstand a gutter full of water, ice and snow? Also, bear in mind that it isn't just the system and the fascia bracket itself, look at the quality and condition of the fascia to which it will be fixed.

Pitch perfect

The pitch of a roof can have an effect on the way the water enters the gutter. In simple terms, the higher the pitch equals less volume of water (technically) but the flow rate is quick. In contrast, a low pitch would have a higher volume

Polypipe



Polypipe's Elegance Ogee rainwater system – a uPVC cast iron 'lookalike' system that includes rainwater goods and a range of soil and vent products – has really taken off with self-builders giving the system the thumbs up for looks and ease of installation. While some are drawn to the system because of its quality and aesthetic benefits – it's ideal for use in refurb projects on older buildings and in conservation areas or in areas where older style homes predominate. The Elegance range has been designed in such a way that each profile in the range utilises a common downpipe, making installation and ordering very simple.

Tel: 01709 77 00 00 www.polypipe.com/elegance

Enq. 190

Yeoman Rainguard



With over 20 years' experience and a passion for stunning architectural design, Sutton Coldfield based Practice, Janes Architectural, has specified Yeoman Rainguard Rainwater Systems on many of its award winning projects. Simon Janes, from Janes Architectural Practice, explained: "We first used Yeoman Rainguard seven years ago, as its products were the perfect solution for our projects, many of which are bespoke designed houses at the 'high end' of the market. We didn't want to fit standard, plastic rainwater goods and Yeoman Rainguard's XL Aluminium range really fitted the bill providing a high quality product with the traditional appearance required and good value for money."

Enq. 191

Lindab



Outperforming plastic gutter systems in every respect – Rainline steel gutters and downpipes from Lindab offer minimal movement and UV stability, they will not crack, fade or leak, are highly resistant to corrosion and virtually maintenance free. Quick and easy to install, Rainline simply clicks together for a perfect watertight fit – no special tools are required. Available in 10 stunning high build polyester colours the finish of which is guaranteed for 15 years, Rainline is also available in natural

copper. Rainline is available from all leading builders' merchants. Visit the website for further information.

Enq. 192

Fakro



Fakro's new range of flat roof windows includes models with clear and opaque polycarbonate domes as well as a dome-free option. All offer excellent thermal qualities as their multi-chamber PVC frames are filled with polystyrene insulation. Energy-efficient U6 or U8 triple and quadruple-glazed units are also available to provide a glazing U-value as low as 0.3 W/m²K. Added security is achieved through use of an internal pane of P2A anti-burglary glass and the window

design provides a glazing area up to 16 per cent larger than other manufacturers' windows.

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Freefoam

Experienced self-builder Mr Colin Goodwin has recently used Freefoam fascia and soffit in Anthracite Grey to create a striking contemporary roofline on his new four bedroom property. Freefoam added Anthracite Grey, Ral 7016, to its range in response to increased demand from builders and developers. The colour offers an exact match to specified window frames and doors. He explained: "The large windows on two elevations of the property were a key feature of the exterior design. I chose a grey finish for the frames to give a modern feel but wanted to make sure that everything else matched to create a unified sleek look. I was introduced to the Freefoam colour range through my local supplier and hadn't realised it was available. Although we were offered a choice of three different greys Anthracite Grey in Ral 7016 was an exact match to the window frames. We're very pleased with the result." Freefoam is the colour specialist. Recognising the growing importance of colour for architects, specifiers, self-builders and homeowners it seized the opportunity and generated its patented Colormax™ technology.

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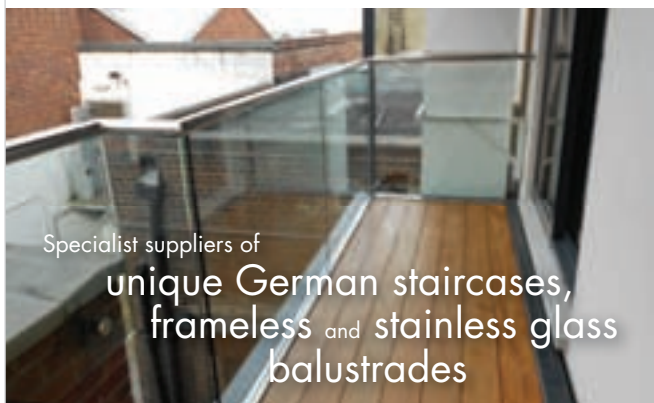


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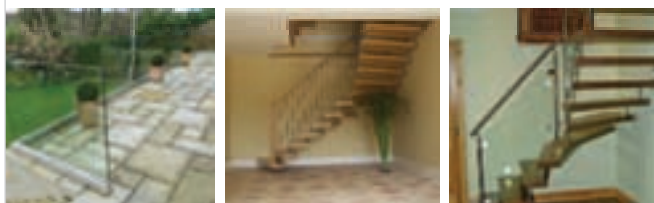
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Choosing a **staircase** for your home



Selecting the right staircase for a new build or refurbishment is an important decision to get right, explains Nick Rackham, managing director for Complete Stair Systems

A staircase is often on view when entering a property, the perfect opportunity to create an impression with a design that complements the house.

Staircase design has really come into its element over the last decade with a vast number of companies now offering contemporary and innovative designs with a focus on hardwood and glass. Staircases are no longer viewed as just a way to get from one level to the next but as a way to enhance a property and create a real 'wow factor'.

Faced with such a vast array of styles and materials where do you start? Staircases range in cost from £500 to £50,000 so it is important to allocate a budget early on and work out what you can and can't afford. Perhaps you want a basic carpeted flight or a stunning floating cantilevered structure with frameless glass balustrade and exposed timber treads. Get

some online inspiration and put some feelers out for some indicative costs. You will be able to get advice on costing through your architect or builder and any staircase company. If you contact a staircase company you will need to have a rough idea of the shape of the staircase, the floor to floor height and the sort of materials you would like to use, ideally supplying them with a drawing or a sketch showing some basic dimensions.

Space

It is important you have sufficient space for the type of staircase you require. If you have an architect or surveyor involved with the work then they will be able to plot the space required for the new staircase. You can also talk to a staircase company who will quickly be able to establish the opening required in the floor for the shape of staircase you would like. Indeed you

Continued on page 65...

Faced with such a vast array of styles and materials
where do you start?

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The opening in the floor and the available space will usually dictate the shape of the staircase you can have

might have an existing opening that you can't enlarge and wish to find your best options for the space you have.

Configurations

Staircases come in all shapes and sizes but are generally supplied as straight flights, quarter turns (one 90 degree turn), half turns (two 90 degree turns), and spirals. The opening in the floor and the available space will usually dictate the shape of the staircase you can have. A staircase company will be able to advise with this and perhaps provide some sketches and drawings to help.

Standard stairs

The majority of houses in the UK have straight, quarter turns or half turn staircases, which are carpeted. These flights often have an under stairs toilet or storage and are generally constructed with softwood stringers (side pieces that support the steps), MDF treads and ply risers. This type of staircase tends to be the most economically priced and is supplied by a number of larger national companies and local joiners. You might want to consider this type of staircase if you plan to carpet the stairs or you need to

utilise the space below and therefore can't have open risers. To modernise the structure you could add glass infill panels instead of spindles and perhaps opt for a hardwood stringer down the side of the staircase.

Modern and open stairs

Should your budget permit, you might want to consider a more modern approach and opt for an open riser flight with exposed treads. Within staircase design there is an emphasis on light and open styles with subtle supporting structures to allow the maximum passage of light. Instead of the normal 'double-stringer' structures there are now staircases supported with a single spine or indeed with treads cantilevered directly from the wall, that appear to float in mid air. The treads on these modern flights tend to be in hardwood with beech, oak and ash very popular. You could perhaps choose the same species of timber to match your new hardwood floor or new doors.

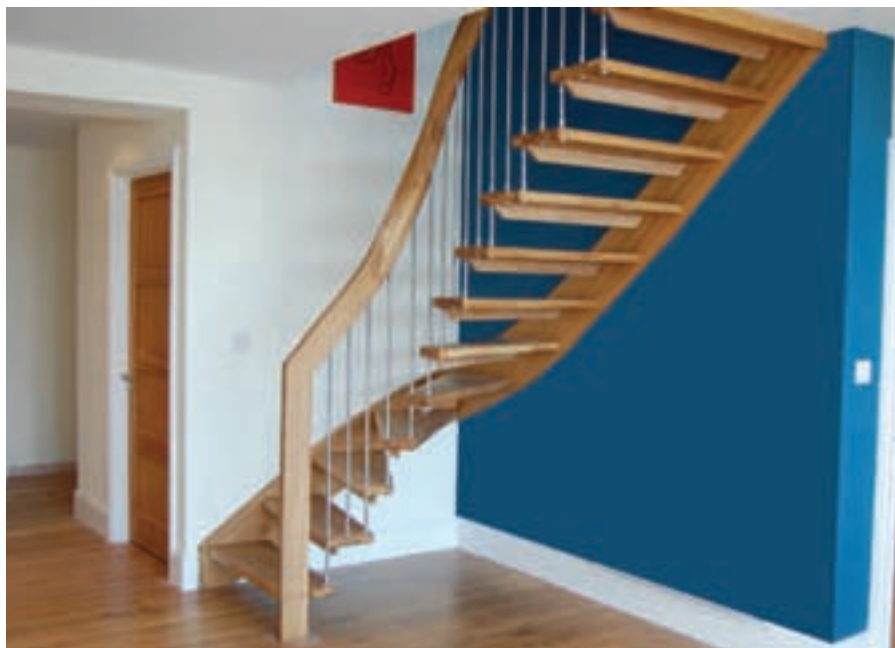
The conventional 'spindle' on modern stairs has been overtaken with infill's that are less obtrusive and that are a little more appealing to the eye. Glass is extremely popular and can look stunning in the right location. But be

warned – streaks left by sticky little figures or pets will be very visible in the light. Horizontal wires and rails are undoubtedly a more appealing option to spindles but they generally don't comply with UK regulations. This is mainly because they are deemed 'climbable' by building inspectors as the horizontals form a ladder effect.

There is also a rule governing the gap between the steps. Any open riser staircase should have a maximum riser gap of 100mm to prevent small children falling through the staircase. Most companies offering these open and modern staircases will have an option to infill this gap, keeping it open but reducing the gap to less than 100mm.

The best advice would be to get a staircase company involved from the early stages in your new build or refurbishment. Think about how important the staircase will be in the development and set aside a proportion of your budget for it. Get some early quotations to help with this so you know what type of staircase you can and can't afford. A stair company will be able to advise on the opening required in the floor and will be able to ensure the staircase complies with the regulations.

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