

selfbuilder & homemaker

January/February 2014

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Smart Homes
Underfloor Heating
Roof lights
Ecobuild Show Preview
National Homebuilding & Renovating Show Preview

FOLDING & SLIDING DOORS SHOWCASE
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Cover image © Inspired Dwellings, see page 57



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TrustMark numbers soar in 2013

TrustMark recorded its greatest year to date last year for tradesmen with over 5 million search results provided. Stuart Carter, head of PR & Marketing at TrustMark, said: "Soaring energy prices coupled with extreme weather have been key contributors for homeowners seeking out our tradesmen last

year. We are delighted to see such high figures as it shows that consumers are searching for qualified and reputable tradesmen to do their work rather than looking on any 'find a trader' websites, which carry out little or no checks on the firms they are listing. Go to www.trustmark.org.uk for more information.

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news

How to find reputable tradespeople for your 2014 home improvement projects

With the UK finally emerging from a prolonged recession and consumer confidence returning, many homeowners will be planning improvements in 2014 – extensions, new kitchens, bathrooms, boiler upgrades and perhaps renewable energy technologies. From the long established **Building & Engineering Services Association (B&ES)** comes useful advice to homeowners on how to find reputable traders for such work and some simple guidelines to follow when dealing with them.



Roderick Pettigrew, B&ES chief executive, says: "Regrettably, far too many rogue traders operate in the UK, and to help combat their rip off tactics there are a growing number of trade competence and 'Buy with Confidence' schemes around.

"The one we recommend is TrustMark and it's worth bearing in mind that it's the only scheme officially endorsed and backed by the government.

TrustMark was set up specifically to help homeowners and consumers locate local reputable tradespeople to carry out quality

improvements, repairs and maintenance work on their home or garden.

"So for peace of mind only ask TrustMark registered companies to quote for your home improvement. Then follow these simple guidelines to ensure a satisfactory outcome:

- Obtain written and itemised quotes from at least three companies. Getting quotes will give you a realistic guide to how much the work is likely to cost and it will also help you look at ways to save money, if you need to.
- Itemised quotes will help you to compare what different traders charge for each part of the work. They will also help you to decide which part you can remove if the costs are higher than your budget allows. Check that traders are estimating a similar time period to complete the job and check that the quote includes everything in your list of required work.
- Quotes should include VAT. If it is not mentioned, check whether it is included and write down the final amount you will be asked to pay. Agree how payments will be made and discuss potential delays to the work including who is responsible for them and any costs related to delays.
- Have regular meetings with the contractor and raise any issues as they arise – don't wait until the end of the work.
- Have a clear idea of when the final payment is due and remember that you are entitled to withhold a reasonable amount of money to ensure that any problems are put right.
- Check that your local authority Building Control Department has signed off key stages of the work if they are required to."

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Moving tips for 2014

If you have aspirations of moving home, 2014 is the year to do it. John Elliott, managing director of Millwood Designer Homes, gives some advice on making that move

Last year the housing market proved its resilience as it underwent a sizeable turnaround with prices rising at a pace unseen since the economic crisis. So it is not surprising that both estate agents and banks are forecasting further growth in 2014, with house prices predicted to rise by between five per cent and eight per cent this year, depending on who you listen to. It is not just London and the south east that are set to do well either, as gains are predicted in all parts of the country. If you aspire to change home in 2014, the first thing you need to do is to put your home on the market as you will be in a much stronger position. You will always receive the best deals from housebuilders and vendors if they know your house has already sold. However, there are some important things to consider before you do this:

Timescale

You need to be realistic about the price you will sell your home at and this will depend on whether you want to sell your house quickly or if you are prepared to wait. As a general rule, if you are happy to wait for up to six months, you could expect to sell your house at full market value.

Timing is crucial

Winter is the worst time to sell a property. From March is the time when you should be putting your home on the market, and Easter is when most people start to think about moving again.

Fix any major issues

You don't need to gut and redecorate the entire property, but if you know there are issues with your home then it is important to get them fixed as they will inevitably be picked up in the survey.

Do you need to refurbish?

If you decide to do some work on your property, it is important that you don't overspend – you just need to show your home to its best potential. The kitchen is the most important room in the house, followed by the bathroom, so if they are just a little tired around the edges then don't spend money on replacing them, a lick of paint, replacing door fronts and regrouting can make a huge difference.

Target your market

Consider your target market and then tailor your home to appeal to them. If your small third bedroom is used as a study and your home will appeal to families, change it back to a bedroom.

Dress to impress

Kerb appeal has a huge impact and first impressions are vital, so make sure front gardens are tidy, paint the front door and make the entrance area as welcoming as possible.

It is important to tidy away all the clutter and minimise personal possessions so purchasers can picture themselves living in your home.

Continued overleaf...



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Making self build make sense

You may be about to embark on your self build journey but as the experts and self builders at The National Self Build & Renovation Show know, this is just the beginning!

Perfectly timed to coincide with the majority of self builders who commence their projects in the first few months of a new year, The National Self Build & Renovation Show gives both new and experienced self builders alike a unique opportunity to fully experience all the various elements of a build project, with free advice, support, ideas and inspiration just when and where you need it.

Held over three days, from Friday 7 – Sunday 9 February, The National Self Build & Renovation Show is returning to Swindon's NSBRC – the 'hub' for self builders and renovators and the UK's only permanent visitor centre offering free year-round advice and support.

Heralded as one of the most informative and inspiring events for self builders and renovators, where you have the time and space to clearly address your questions and requirements, the National Self Build & Renovation Show provides

a platform where knowledge, confidence and contacts can be obtained under one roof for successful project completion.

With a packed programme of daily live demonstrations, self build walking educational tours, seminars and presentations plus a wealth of experts on-hand to give free, impartial advice on any aspect of your project – from planning to project management – the show also boasts over 250 exhibitors showcasing everything from home automation systems and eco technologies to landscaping techniques.

One of the most popular and talked about features of the show is the Case Study Theatre where you can get up close and personal with like-minded individuals who have taken on their own self build or renovation project.

Taking centre stage will be the new Live Demonstration Arena where you can witness the pros and cons of various products and applications under the heading Battle of the Building Systems, designed to help you make an informed decision when it comes to specifying

products and services for your build.

Supporting the saying of 'you can never have too much information', the show also features four dedicated seminar theatres addressing topics such as plot-finding to finance, sourcing trades and materials to the latest in eco technologies, plus lively and informative panel debates interspersed throughout each day.

The show also caters for those who are taking on a renovation project such as a barn conversion or derelict property. To meet the demand for this interest, renovation experts Chris Dewhurst and Sam Kirby will be conducting regular tours around a dilapidated Victorian house brought back to 21st century standards using some of the latest techniques and advising on all aspects from site safety to dry rot issues, plumbing and replacement timber frame systems.

FREE tickets for Selfbuilder & Homemaker readers! We've got 100 pairs of tickets to The National Self Build & Renovation Show to give away to our readers! For your tickets, simply visit www.nsbrc.co.uk and enter code SBRSJAN14.



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...continued. If you have any bright walls, it might be worth repainting them with something more neutral, and a few high-quality furnishings can make a big difference to the appeal of your home.

Kitchens and bathrooms should be inviting and hygienic. Carpets should only be replaced if they are in a very bad state – often a good clean is enough.

Be realistic

I would always recommend that you invite four estate agents to value your property in order to get a realistic guide, but remember that the highest price isn't always going to be the right price. You need to get at least two of the four within £10,000 of each other to form a realistic assessment of the correct price zone. Ultimately, if you are struggling to sell your home then you need to review the property condition and/or the price.

The economy is getting firmly back on track and the Bank of England interest rate will stay low for quite a while yet, despite what the doom-mongers say! If you have been worried about the markets for the next five years, it won't get much better than this!

diary

The National Self Build & Renovation Show (page 8)
 7 - 9 Feb, Swindon
www.nsbrc.co.uk/national-self-build-renovation-show-2014

Ask An Architect
 15 Feb, 15 Mar, Swindon
www.nsbrc.co.uk/ask-an-architect-from-the-riba-nsbrc

Ecobuild (page 23)
 4 - 6 Mar, London
www.ecobuild.co.uk

The National Homebuilding & Renovating Show (page 39)
 27 - 30 Mar, Birmingham
national.homebuildingshow.co.uk

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Interior inspiration: Children's bedrooms showcase

The first issue of Selfbuilder & Homemaker this year brings you a fresh look at your children's bedroom. Whether you're planning a nursery or redecorating to suit your growing toddler, we hope to inspire you with a look-book of brilliant new ideas and products

1. Bemz mattress covers are made using the same fabric front, back and along the edges, making it reversible. You can add decorative piping around the edges as an extra detail if you wish. The covers have a robust zipper along one side for easy removal. The mattress covers fit most common mattress sizes in thicknesses from 4 cm to 14 cm. Covers in sizes suitable for children are also available. Prices from the top: Pink check unavailable; Sun Yellow Panama Cotton, 90 x 200cm, height 4cm, £95; Peach Panama Cotton, 90 x 200cm, height 4cm, £95; Paler Shade of Grey Panama Cotton, 90 x 200cm, height 12cm, £95; Mandarin Orange Panama Cotton, 90 x 200cm, height 4cm, £95; Gotland Stripe Silver Grey, 90 x 200cm, height 10cm, £119.

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2. This stunning crib is made by Kalon Studios and is brought to you by kids boutique Nubie. Inspired by a colourful circus wagon the caravan crib is available in a stunning range of colours – red, yellow, blue, black, green, white and maple. There are two height adjustments for the mattress and the crib converts into a simple platform toddler bed with no conversion kit needed. With purchase of a conversion kit the bed will change into a small toddler day bed/low sofa for more years of use! 76cm x 146cm x 86cm. Fits standard cot mattress 140cm x 70 cm (not supplied). £869.

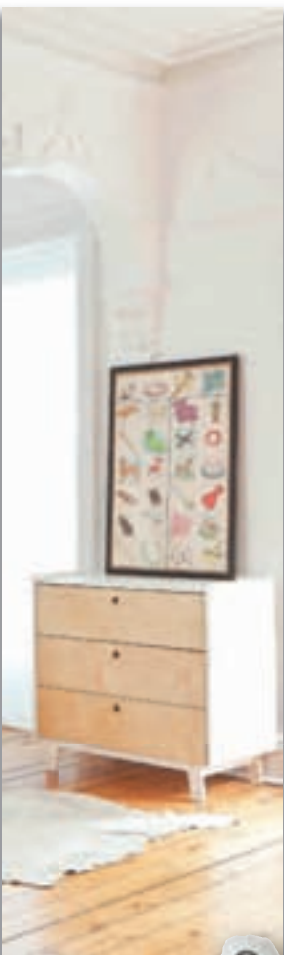
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3. The perfect centrepiece, the Oeuf NYC Perch Bunk Bed, supplied by Nubie, in bright white and smooth Baltic birch is ideal for smaller spaces. Its compact footprint leaves plenty of room for play while the clever design allows for separation into a loft bed and stand-alone twin for flexible configuration options. £1085.

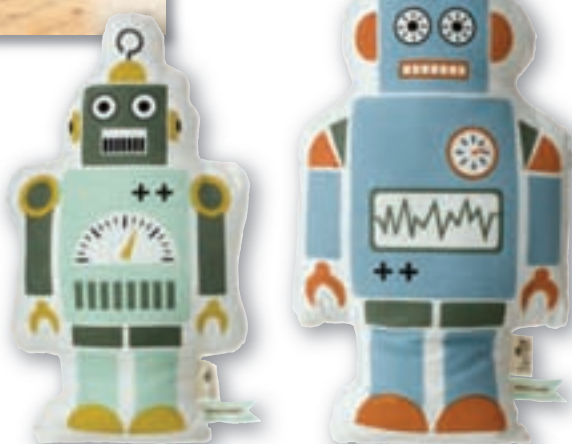
Enq. 108

4. These robots from the Ferm Living Nursery Interiors collection are brought to you by kids boutique Nubie. Mr Small and Mr Large Robot are made of 100 per cent organic cotton and are 50 cm or 40cm. Small £29, large +£8.

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5

5. Designed by **Lorena Canals** and supplied by **Nubie**, this fun and stylish wool nursery rug is made from 75 per cent New Zealand wool and 25 per cent Indian wool. It is lovely and textured with a resilient jute backing to ensure longevity. It has been expertly hand tufted and then finished in natural, non-toxic colours to ensure your child's health and well-being. At 140cm by 200cm, this spacious rug will bring a great focal point within any child's bedroom setting. £350.

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6. **Bemz** beanbag covers: Gotland Stripe Silver Grey, £75, and Sun Yellow Panama Cotton, £55. The size of the bean bag cover is determined by the diameter of the bottom, and the bean bag height. Fits most pear-shaped bean bags from different manufacturers, but can also be stuffed with cushions and covers. The cover has a zip along the bottom and is durable, machine washable and 100 per cent cotton.

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7. The colour pencil light from **The Lighting Store**, featured on *60 Minute Makeover*, is perfect for lighting a child's bedroom – it is a good idea to use directional spots to highlight certain areas, such as a baby's changing table or a feeding or reading chair. £74.

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7

Pooling resources

When two generations of the Wilson family found neither could afford a self build, they did what families do – they pulled together to create a stunning home.

By Mark Williams

Marion Wilson has abiding memories of looking after her elderly mother in her final years, so when her daughter suggested combining their homes it made perfect sense.

Marion and her husband Keith had lived in the same bungalow, in a sleepy Hertfordshire village, for 40 years. It was their second home in the same village, the first having been built by Keith – a telephone engineer by trade – in the mid-1960s.

"I used plans from *Practical Householder*," Keith told us. "It was a three-bedroomed detached home, which I managed and built from the foundations upwards. It wasn't completely straightforward; I had wanted a Yorkstone chimney but the planners weren't keen. Even when I chose the bricks, I discovered just before we were about to start the build that there would be a two-year waiting list to get them, so we ended up using a more common brick."

Sadly, the Wilson's country idyll didn't work out as planned. The house abutted the local recreation ground, and the local youths on motorbikes caused so much noise and trouble, they eventually forced the Wilsons to start looking for somewhere else to live. When the bungalow, just around the corner, came up for sale, they grabbed the chance to move.

Built in 1948, the bungalow was of its time, with 20cm thick walls and not the most attractive building. But it had the position and outlook the Wilsons wanted, so they stayed and raised two daughters. Both now have children and homes of their own.

"It was my daughter's idea," says Marion. "She said 'I want to look after you in old age, and it would make sense to pool resources and build a house for us all to share. But I don't like your bungalow.' Having cared for my mum, I knew what she meant."

And so a plan was hatched in which her daughter's family, including husband and two children, would sell their home and, together with Keith and Marion's savings, replace the bungalow with a self build. A legal agreement would ensure joint ownership of the entire family.

"We had wanted to build a Potton home way back, when we built our first house," says Keith. "But back then, we couldn't afford it. This time, we went off to see the show homes

Continued on page 15...





VIEW OF THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE (TOP LEFT); REAR ASPECT (MIDDLE)
AND MARION AND KEITH WILSON [ABOVE]



THE WILSONS

Along with their children, Marion and Keith Wilson create a beautiful Potton home in a Hertfordshire village



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It is a traditional style with a great deal of exposed timber, both outside and in

and decided on the Gransden as the basis for our build."

The first step in the build was to get an Ordnance Survey site plan, and get drawings done to assess the street scene. This work was done by MS Ford Associates in Cambridge. Keith and Marion also ensured the neighbours saw and were happy with the plans as they progressed; as a policy, this not only defrayed the chances of objections but actually generated one letter of support to the planners.

Getting the plans through was actually very straightforward, says Keith. His past experience was that constant communication throughout usually pays off, as it did this time, but the 'fit' of the design with the row of older homes in the village was a great help.

Like all Potton homes, the Gransden is a timber-framed building. It is a traditional style with a great deal of exposed timber, both outside and in. The Wilsons decided – with the assistance of Potton's recommended architect – to go for a double-fronted design with two gables, the first floor rooms contained within the roofspace.

"One of the great things about a timber-framed house is that the interior walls are all stud, so you can adapt the interior to suit," says Keith. In the event, the Wilsons made nine revisions as the design process progressed, including some changes made during the build.

The majority of the contractors were those recommended by Potton in the hefty self-build manual Potton supplies to customers: "I did shop around for other suppliers but Potton's seemed to be no more expensive," admits Keith. "In fact, 90 per cent of our suppliers were brilliant and couldn't have been more helpful."

Of course, once the bungalow had been removed, Keith and Marion would need somewhere to live. They decided to put an ageing two-berth touring caravan in the garden and Keith, ever resourceful, built a makeshift outside loo plumbed into the existing sewer to improve

Continued on page 17...



HALLWAY OPEN OVER FRONT DOOR [ABOVE]
AND THE REAR ASPECT [BELOW]



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the comfort levels; in fact, says Marion, the loo was something the contractors were particularly pleased to share! The two families stored furniture both in a marquee they erected and in the garage when the build was underway.

Marion says she remembers the final day of the demolition, washing the dishes in the remaining part of the kitchen and looking down her garden at the spring scene while behind her was just open space: "It was really quite surreal," she says.

After an exploratory trench had been dug to examine the substrate, the foundations were dug at about a metre deep and the build progressed rapidly, with Keith now living on site supervising the build. Thankfully, the timing was

good for all the contractors and the build progressed very quickly.

"It was a reasonable summer," says Keith. "We did have a few showers – in fact, we planned the kitchen with the kitchen fitters while standing under umbrellas where the kitchen was going to be!"

The Wilsons lived in their caravan for seven months, their daughter and family renting a cottage locally. But they got in before winter and the wait was worthwhile.

The Wilsons' home has a traditional feel about it, half-brick with exposed timber on the gables and extensive use of unpainted wood for the door frames and windows. It has a traditional tiled roof. Double-fronted, the west

Continued overleaf...

The kitchen diner is the home's main space and has accommodated 30 people for Christmas

THE KITCHEN DINER [ABOVE], THE DINING ROOM [BELOW LEFT] AND THE MAIN HALLWAY [BELOW]





THE MASTER BEDROOM

BELOW IS THE EN SUITE TO SECOND BEDROOM AND THE FAMILY BATHROOM WITH WALK-IN SHOWER



Keith says he managed to take the whole process of supervising the build in his stride, using his experience but also paying credit to his contractors

side is the living rooms and the east houses a double garage, which the Wilsons say could easily be converted into additional living space in the future.

Inside, the impressive entrance hall has a feature 'gallery' first floor hallway overhead, the living room off to the left, the kitchen diner straight ahead and a corridor to the right leading to a study which, if required, can be converted into a bedroom and a large bathroom.

The kitchen diner is the home's main space and has accommodated 30 people for Christmas. The dining area is very bright, with a lot of windows in a 'sunroom' arrangement, and a light Travertine tile floor. The kitchen has doors leading into the utility room and a small bathroom.

The gas-fired boiler system – which feeds underfloor heating on both floors, is in a separate room with access from an outside door. The Wilsons say the high-grade insulation and relatively airtight construction ensures this is very efficient.

Upstairs, the central hallway leads to five bedrooms, two of which are en suite. It's very spacious, with the gable edges used for storage and large walk-in wardrobes in four of the bedrooms. The Wilsons opted for an aged appearance for the interior timbers, with scalloped edges and a dark stain. Apart from one bedroom, the house is floored throughout in either tile or laminate flooring to help reduce dust.

The two living rooms both sport brick fireplaces, the front room having a feature open fireplace, the family room a neat woodburning stove – which Keith says rarely needs to be pressed into action – and an attractive log store inset into the brick wall. A door between this room and the kitchen has a glazed panel, illustrated with butterflies by a local artist.

Continued overleaf...



THE FAMILY ROOM

LOCAL ARTIST CREATED WINDOW







THE LIVING ROOM (LEFT) AND THE LOG BURNER AND LOG STORE IN THE FAMILY ROOM

Keith says he managed to take the whole process of supervising the build in his stride, using his experience but also paying credit to his contractors which he says were, with few exceptions, helpful and flexible. Potton's guidance was excellent, though Keith says he belatedly discovered that, as he developed the property, VAT could be reclaimed on all of the

elements of the permanent structure.

But the Wilsons' home is first and foremost an illustration of how a family, working together, can achieve self build dreams which would be beyond the reach of a single generation. "I don't think this would work for all families," warns Marion. "You have to be very accommodating. But it works very well for us."

Key facts

Estimated value of the plot: £200,000

Cost of build (complete): £375,000

Estimated current value of property:
£650,000 – £700,000

Suppliers:

- Design and timber frame building supply: Potton Homes
Eltisley Road, Great Gransden,
Sandy SG19 3AR
Tel: 01767 676400
Email: sales@potton.co.uk
- Streetscene elevation for planning:
MS Ford Associates
(consulting engineers)
147 Cambridge Road, Great Shelford,
Cambridge CB2 5JN

Tel: 01223 510309

Email: info@msford.co.uk

- Electrical: MH Geaves
105 Everton Road, Sandy
SG19 2PD
Tel: 01767 261 289
- Glazing: Alan Jones Glazing Services
112 Norton Rd, Stotfold, Hitchin,
Hertfordshire SG5 4PG
Tel: 01462 834392
- Roofing: Manor Roofing
Unit 2/Bewley/Slip End,
Baldock SG7 6SF
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Enq. 113



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Enq. 114

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ecobuild stand no N2210/11

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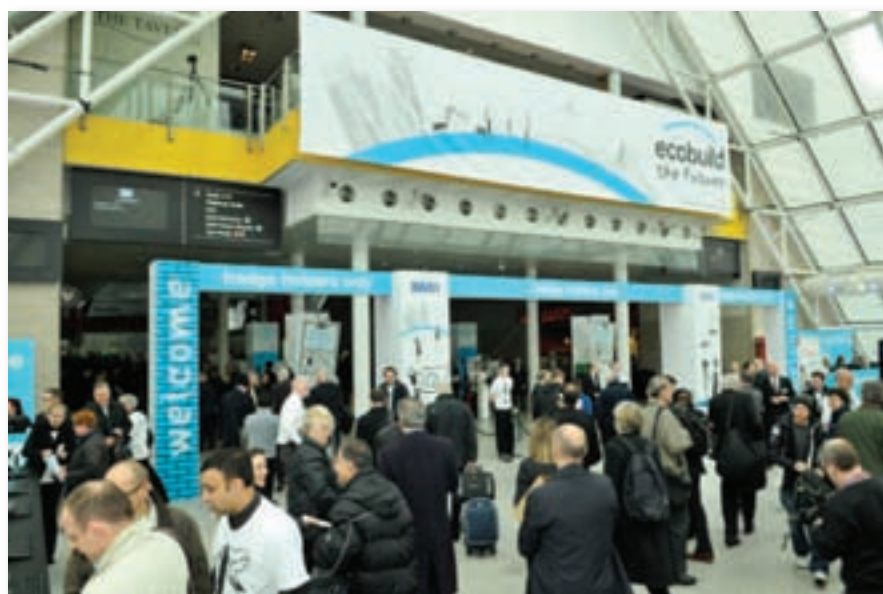


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Enq. 115

Make your home sustainable and more eco-friendly at Ecobuild 2014



The countdown to Ecobuild 2014 has begun – the world's biggest event for sustainable design, construction and the built environment which takes place 4-6 March at London's ExCeL.

Perfect for those designing and building self sustaining, low carbon homes and those seeking inspiration for their first self build, Ecobuild 2014 will bring together thousands of green products and solutions as well as expert education and advice under one roof. Self builders and homemakers will learn all they need to know about making a striking eco-friendly and sustainable home.

Beautiful eco interiors

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

Making the most of renewables

As energy costs continue to rise, self builders should explore the benefits of the latest renewable technologies on show. Out on the show floor there are dozens of informative attractions and demonstrations to see. The Green Energy zone sponsored by Rexel will champion key energy issues, providing guidance and practical advice on policy and legislation. This area will include a range of features on renewable energy, resource management and energy efficiency.

Ecobuild 2014 will represent a vast range of innovative solar solutions from on-roof, to semi-integrated to fully roof-integrated products, and feature the latest technologies from leading manufacturers. Self builders can also learn about the future of energy the reinvented Solar City in association with SMA Solar. Formerly known as the Solar Hub, Solar City will feature seminars and practical demonstrations covering all aspects of the solar PV market in the UK. Visitors can listen to live debates and practical case studies from industry experts.

Timber

If you are investigating self building your timber frame, dream home, come to Ecobuild 2014 to hear the latest thinking surrounding the versatility and sustainability credentials of timber, its use in both sustainable design and construction and as a source of renewable energy. Self builders will see new timber structures, wood windows and doors, glulam and cross laminated timber.

Ecobuild 2014 will also feature an unrivalled information programme, attracting over 600 speakers. At the heart of the programme is debate, learning and information exchange, led by internationally renowned academics, ministers, industry leaders and celebrity speakers. All speakers will now appear on the show floor and there will be two spectacular arenas to house the conference programme.

Over 100 industry experts, ministers and VIPs will take centre stage for Ecobuild's acclaimed

Continued overleaf...



conference programme. Hosted in two Ecobuild Arenas on the show floor, the three-day conference programme will focus on topics relevant to the whole industry including developers, architects, contractors and housebuilders. The conference will cover a wide range of issues from energy policy and the future of our cities right down to the right way to deliver zero carbon homes and buildings that work as designed.

Topics include 'Is green the right strategy for growth?', 'What sustainability expertise has the UK got to offer China?', 'Should minimum EPC standards be applied to all buildings?' and 'What is more effective – community energy solutions or the Green Deal?'

More reasons to visit Ecobuild 2014:

- See, touch, play with and compare thousands of products all under one roof
- Keep up-to-date with the latest news, legislation and training
- Meet current and potential suppliers and ensure you're getting the best deal

So, if you're looking to build your dream home or have already started the process, get Ecobuild 2014 in your diary!

To register for your free ticket, visit www.ecobuild.co.uk

You can also follow us on Twitter (@Ecobuild_now) or join our LinkedIn (Ecobuild) group and Facebook page (Ecobuildnow) for the latest show news and updates



AV Composites

ecobuild stand no N1026

AV Composites has developed aluminium panels for conservatory roofs that provide better insulation than panels made of either alveolar polycarbonate or double-glazed glass.

The AV Composites panels are 100 per cent recycled (and recyclable), thanks to the fact that the insulating foam is made out of recycled plastic bottles. The panels can also be coated in a range of coloured insulating paints that match the frame's colour. AV Composites will showcase its innovative solutions at Ecobuild between 4-6 March on stand N1026.

AV Composites, which is headquartered in South-Eastern France, was founded in 2005. The company currently has a 4,000m² production site, which it plans to increase to 6,000m² over the next three years.

The company's products have been awarded European Technical Approval (ETA), a certificate which is granted by the European Organisation for Technical Approvals (EOTA). For further information about AV Composites, please visit the website.

Tel: +33 6 30 13 21 05 www.avcomposites.com

Enq. 116



Specflue

ecobuild stand no N1935

Attendees at Ecobuild this year will be able to visit Specflue on Stand N1935 and find out how to take full advantage of the roll-out to domestic properties, of the government's Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) in summer this year.

As well as viewing the products, there will be a chance to talk to the technical team behind Specflue's renewable heating range which includes thermal stores, solar panels pellet stoves and boilers. Members of Specflue's dedicated training facility will also be on the stand to give advice on its programme of courses for installers of renewable heat products.

Head of Business Support Services Jed Smith commented: "Specflue is a bit of a one-stop shop when it comes to renewables. Visitors to our stand can come with absolutely no knowledge at all and walk away with the information they need to learn about the full range of renewable heat products available and their costs, as well as how to understand RHI and position themselves to take full advantage when it is launched."

Tel: 0800 9020220 www.specflue.co.uk

Enq. 117

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ecobuild stand no N1210

Enq. 118

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ecobuild stand no S34

Enq. 119

Polyseam

ecobuild stand no N520



Polyseam will be exhibiting Graft™, its own new range of sealants, adhesives and fillers on Stand N520 at Ecobuild, March 4–6th 2014 at Excel. The new range bears the strap line 'Hardworking products for hard working people'. Dave Oram, marketing at Polyseam, said: "Builders are facing the joint challenge of meeting ever more stringent environmental legislation without incurring astronomical increases in costs or impinging on the quality of their work. With the Graft

range we are able to allay these concerns and bring them a choice of products that will meet their requirements."

Tel: 0208 596 5061 www.graft.co.uk

Enq. 120

Kaldewei

ecobuild stand no S110



On stand S110 at Ecobuild, Kaldewei will exhibit a selection of latest bathing and shower solutions all made from its unique 3.5mm steel enamel. Offering unrivalled sustainability, Kaldewei is the first bathroom manufacturer to hold ISO 14025 certification in recognition of the eco properties of this 100 per cent recyclable material and its green manufacturing processes. Example Eco models of baths with reduced water capacity will be on display along with level-access shower products, all of

which help specifiers conform to current building regulations, while still providing superb levels of design and bathing comfort.

Tel: 0800 840 9770 www.kaldewei.co.uk

Enq. 121

Ancon

ecobuild stand no N1120



Ancon is to team-up with the country's largest brick manufacturer, Ibstock, to present a range of sustainable and low energy construction solutions at this year's Ecobuild on stand N1120. Thermally efficient wall ties will feature strongly on the stand, with a new version of Ancon's unique basalt fibre TeploTie being launched at the show. The new TeploTie features a stainless steel L-shaped upstand for connecting to steel, concrete or timber frames and like the original brick-to-block TeploTie,

this new tie has very low thermal conductivity so can be disregarded in u-value calculations.

Tel: 0114 275 5224 www.ancon.co.uk

Enq. 122

Johnson & Starley

ecobuild stand no N1211



Johnson & Starley's participation at Ecobuild 2014 will underline the company's commitment to the provision of highly energy efficient heating and ventilation solutions, meeting the needs of homeowners, specifiers and installers. Renowned for its market leading warm air heating technology, the company's recently launched range of WarmCair condensing warm air heaters offer high efficiency combined with low running costs, low NOx emissions and low operational noise levels. A full range of models is

available including three models with integral Domestic Hot Water. Full details of all Johnson & Starley products will be available on Stand N1211 at Ecobuild 2014.

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Johnson & Starley

ecobuild stand no N1211



It is a fact that inadequately ventilated and tightly sealed properties can suffer from mould and condensation, leading to problems for the occupants. A block of flats in South London was saved from this situation with the installation of Johnson & Starley's LE155 ventilation systems with heat recovery. Not only does the LE155 ventilate the property, but it also removes cooking smells and other pollutants from the air – all with minimal heat loss. The units are designed to be installed

conveniently on walls, in cupboards or above cooker hobs, with the addition of the optional cooker canopy. The LE155 units are SAP Appendix Q listed and incorporate energy efficient EC Fans.

Enq. 124

Epwin

ecobuild stand no N1110/11



Restricted by your supply chain? Feeling the pressure of reduced capacity? Margins not what they used to be? Epwin Group understands the importance of partnerships, and the critical role they play in the future and long-term success of a business. So as the recovery builds momentum, it's time to re-think, re-evaluate and re-consider this vital element. Join the Epwin Group at Ecobuild 2014 on Stand N1110/1 to hear why 'standard' just isn't good enough in

2014, and learn why its sector specific, niche and specialist products and services set it apart from the competition.

info@epwin.co.uk www.epwin.co.uk

Enq. 125

Greenwood Airvac



Introducing a brand new training initiative for ventilation installation training – Greenwood Airvac is launching a mobile ventilation rig that brings BPEC accredited training courses to your doorstep: BPEC2U. The first of its kind, the mobile rig is part of the fully accredited BPEC training, providing practical training for its Domestic Ventilation Installation Training Course. Comprising a fully functional heat recovery system, semi-rigid ducting, plus the facility for power testing and balancing as required by BPEC, the rig gives installers hands-on experience in the installation, inspection, testing and commissioning of ventilation systems. Supporting the changes in the 2010 Building Regulations, which have put a greater focus on installation and overall efficiency, the Greenwood BPEC2U course is designed to assist installers in delivering guaranteed installed performance first time, every time. By attending the course, installers will be able to provide full certification for sign-off and quality of installation, as well as benefiting from improvements in SAP calculations for developers and a reduction in call backs. Designed for anyone involved in the installation of heat recovery, ducting and central extract systems, the one-day course can be carried out at your premises or a location of your choice. This helps minimise off-site costs and reduces accommodation and travel expenses to make training a much more viable option. With bookings being taken now, please contact Greenwood Airvac.

Enq. 126

Editor's Focus

ARADA

2013 saw the launch of the first range of Inset Cassette Stoves from the well-known Arrow brand from Arada. This was the first move away from the more traditional freestanding stoves which have previously been the core offering from Arada, meeting the changes in customer needs and modern living spaces. The Arrow i Series Cassette Stoves have already proved very popular due partly to the huge glass areas used on each model offering the most extensive view of the fire ever. Alongside the heat advantages of having large glass areas, the i Series also benefits from having a heat convection system that provides additional heat to the room. The i Series range of stoves offer outputs from 6kW to 12kW across the seven models.

Enq. 127



KIT STONE

Kitchen specialist Kit Stone creates bespoke-style kitchens without a designer price tag. With the average price of a Kit Stone kitchen just £15,000, it offers outstanding value for money. Hand made from solid wood, utilising the most traditional of techniques, every cabinet is built upon a solid interlocking frame - no chipboard or mdf is used in the construction. This shaker-style kitchen epitomises understated elegance with its clean lines and modern feel. Hand painted in Dove Grey as standard, it is available in a choice of 28 heritage colours.

Enq. 128



POWER MACHINES

Trying to get mains power to a building can be difficult. In some instances, the location of your dwelling can mean getting a mains supply is just not feasible. This was the case for a customer who built a holiday rental property at Lake Ullswater, Cumbria, UK. The Powerguard PS system installed supplied the property with economical power 24 hours a day; the generator runs for less than four hours per day as opposed to 24 hours. Adding renewable energy, including a wind turbine or solar panels to the system further reduces the reliance on the generator. See how unique energy saving solutions could help you by visiting the website or calling Power Machines.

Enq. 129

TRUE NORTH LOG HOMES

Self build your very own eco friendly, energy efficient Canadian log home. For 28 years True North Log Homes has been manufacturing one of the most technologically advanced log walls in the world, with multiple patents for its pioneering technology. Work with the design team to create your custom dream home or choose existing plans from the award winning plan book. Your home is erected for you, typically watertight in a few weeks, or the kit is supplied for self build projects. The highest quality timber is sourced from FSC Certified sustainable forests in Canada. The UK office builds residential, commercial and holiday homes worldwide.

Enq. 130



JB KIND

JB Kind's 2014 Door Collection is packed full of exclusive designs. From cutting edge contemporary to stunningly stylish, you will be able to find something to suit your project and budget. With nearly 200 doors, including an incredible 39 new additions, you'll be thrilled at how much choice you'll find. Also don't forget, if it's individually tailored doors you require, JB Kind can also create affordable bespoke solutions. Fully accredited FD30 fire doors, special sizes, alternative designs and FSC® chain of custody certified products are all available.

Enq. 131

the
zero carbon
SOLUTION

THE ZERO CARBON SOLUTION

House builder Caplin Homes and renewable energy technology supplier Newform Energy have joined forces to launch a new limited company, offering a solar solution to zero carbon house building. The Zero Carbon Solution will provide an affordable out-of-the-box energy system for domestic new-builds and low-rise commercial developments. Made up of three core technologies, hybrid PVT solar collectors, a patented inter-seasonal energy store and a heat pump, the system can meet a building's full heating and hot water requirements all year round, using only solar power. The Zero Carbon Solution will also provide a single source of technology and support for all of its elements.

Enq. 132

Continued on page 32...



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Enq. 133

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Enq. 134

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Enq. 135

Which ventilation system is right for your home?

With today's houses becoming more air tight, quality ventilation systems are even more important. What's new on the market that satisfies energy efficiency requirements yet ensures good air quality for modern homes? Kevin Hippey, general manager Vortice Ltd, explores the options



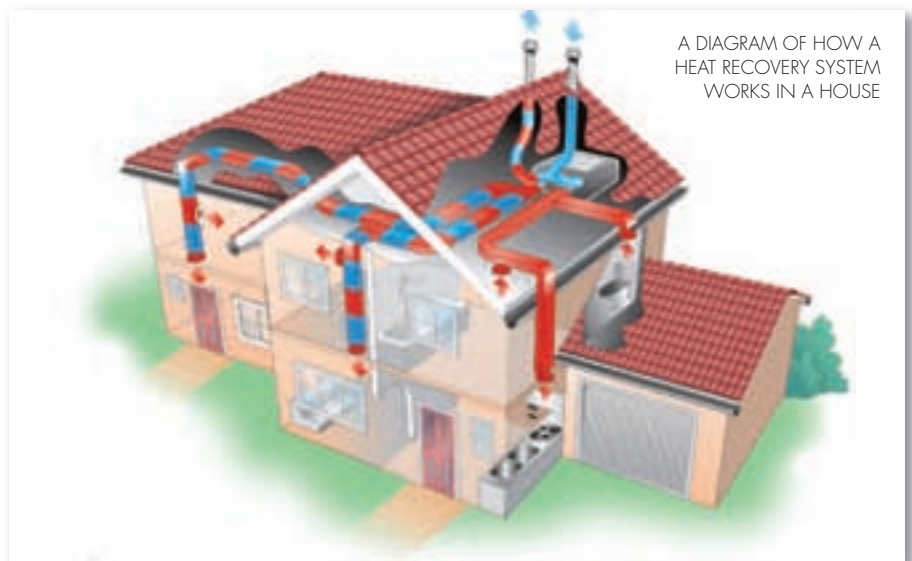
Trends in modern house building are clear to all; energy efficiency is king and in striving to achieve that with new builds, houses are becoming increasingly airtight. An energy efficient home is laudable and potentially much kinder on the wallet, but the quality of the air that the occupant breathes is vital to their health and well-being. Rather than being an 'also ran' element of the build process, the design of the ventilation system can make an enormous difference not only to the quality of the air, but also to how energy efficient that system will be. In every case, in order to get the optimum performance from today's ventilation products, the way the ductwork is designed is key.

If the self builder can ensure three things are given prominence when planning their ventilation system, they can make an enormous difference both to air quality and to the energy efficiency of their ventilation system.

- The first is to ensure that system restrictions like bends in ductwork are avoided – you will quickly negate the benefit of an energy efficient ventilation fan if the air it is moving has to navigate around corners and work much harder to move through the ductwork.
- The second is to choose the right ventilation product for your requirements and generally that means knowing precisely how many 'wet rooms' there are around the property or anticipating how many there might be in the future and specifying the fan or heat recovery system that's up to the job.
- The third is not to scrimp on quality of the ducting – it does come in a range of prices – if you're shopping around, don't be persuaded to buy low-grade ducting that's been developed from the tumble dryer market – it won't be up to the job for very long, will degrade or split and end up costing you more than you'd bargained for.

There are new building regulations coming into force this year, but these don't affect the self build or renovation market, the only impact they will have is if you're building a Code property.

So, what products are out there? The buzz



words of the moment are heat recovery units – these special ventilation systems take stale air from the wet rooms of the building, remove the heat from the air and replace that heat into the fresh air that it brings back into the building from outside. These products are often mis-sold to owners of old buildings, where in most cases, unless a thermal covering has been applied, heat loss through the envelope of the building will cancel out the benefit of having a heat recovery unit in the property. There is one exception to that, where the purpose of the unit is not really to recover heat so much as to significantly improve a very damp property.

Heat recovery units come in different shapes and sizes and are usually selected based on the number of wet rooms they need to extract from – a wet room is a bathroom, WC or utility room for example. They can be designed to fit within a roof space, a kitchen cupboard space or, where space is at a premium, some of the newer units are designed specifically for ceiling voids in apartments.

Continuous extract fans can be more appropriate for refurbishments and run continuously to ensure fresh airflow through the property at all times. In older properties, a continuous running

fan will help reduce condensation and if it were a low energy product, then the cost would be less than the equivalent of having a 60 watt light bulb on.

For self builders, if you're appointing a contractor to install the ventilation system, make sure they are BPEC trained – that means that they can ensure both the ducting and the ventilation system are designed to work to their optimum capacity.

Many reputable ventilation system suppliers offer a design service at a cost which is refundable against a product order – this is well worth the investment and can ensure that energy savings are made right from the word go. Often, the technical departments of manufacturers can also give you indicative prices for a two-, three- or four-bedroom house so that you have a guideline to budget from and in our case, products are all priced on our e-commerce website.

The important thing to remember, whether you're building from scratch or renovating an older property, is that the time you take designing the system in the first place will reap benefits in the longer term, not just for your pocket, but also for your health.

Enq. 136

Dickies



Dickies will be introducing a number of exciting new products and ranges for 2014, with style, functionality and quality being paramount. It is launching a brand new Flame Retardant range with new design features and introducing new and innovative fabrics into the market. It will also be introducing an exciting new two tone range, designed to sit across all Dickies collections. The new parka jacket is a key piece in the collection, with features including a removable hood, removable fur and a tail hem for extra back warmth. Dickies' high performance workwear is suited for even the harshest working environments.

Tel: 01761 419419 www.dickiesworkwear.com

Enq. 137

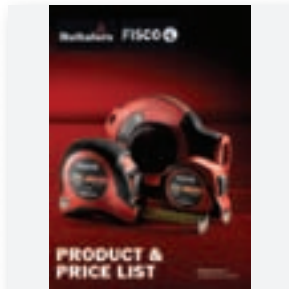
Snickers Workwear



Snickers' 'Three-Layer' workclothes principle is unique in the workwear industry. While our bodies can adapt to warm conditions, they can't acclimatise to cold weather. Keeping the body warm by storing warm air close to the body is the primary task of the middle layer. Snickers' 'Second Layer' garments are made of a porous material that creates warm air-pockets. These include shirts, fleeces and trousers that are carefully designed to compliment 'First Layer' protection through unique innovations like the A.I.S. Active Insulation System. Snickers combine insulating and windproof micro-fleece fabrics with high moisture transportation material to keep you warm and comfortable on site.

Enq. 138

Hultafors



Hultafors Tools' new Product and Price List catalogue is now available with details of loads of innovative hand tools and accessories for working effectively wherever you are on site – whatever your trade. The proof of Hultafors' quality and innovation can be found in every hand tool. Ergonomically crafted with built-in Fisco technology, there's a host of tools for measuring and marking, chopping, striking and levelling. There's even award-winning wrecking bars that act

as multi-purpose workmates on site. Whatever the job in hand, the Hultafors hand tools system provides the ultimate solutions for making everyone's workday easier.

Enq. 139

Snickers Workwear



The soft wicking polyester in Snickers' 'First Layer' underwear keeps your body warm and dry, while the 'Second Layer' garments will insulate your body by creating a pocket of air around it to keep you warm. Over and above these superb working clothes, Snickers' 'Third Layer' jackets and trousers deliver reliable weather protection against rain, wind, hail and snow along with advanced ventilation plus in-built functionality to control and regulate the heat from your body.

These waterproof, breathable, strong and durable outer garments – like Snickers' new advanced A.P.S. working clothes – will keep you working in comfort, at your best, whatever the environment or weather conditions.

Enq. 140

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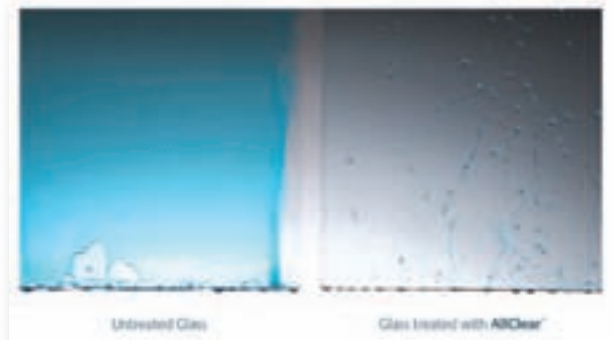
The MAX Dumper™ provides 46% greater weight-carrying capacity, maintaining the compact features that give our products greater maneuverability and accessibility over other dumpers.

The MAX Dumper™ can carry 800lb/363kg 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.

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www.mucktruck.co.uk

Enq. 141



Lakes Bathrooms

Shower specialist Lakes Bathrooms is expanding its discount offer on its AllClear® Surface Protection System for all consumers, previously only available to those purchasing shower enclosures from the Classic or Coastline Collections. A 25 per cent discount is now available for a limited time on all online purchases of the AllClear Surface Protection System; a complete kit designed for home application of the high performance stay-clean coating, suitable for maintenance of treated glass and for use on an array of household surfaces. AllClear is a hydrophobic, invisible, stay-clean coating that repels water, limescale, dirt, soap scum and other deposits to protect the sparkle of bathroom products; giving glass 20 per cent greater brilliance. The AllClear Surface Protection System is a complete kit contained in a sturdy plastic tub. It includes a jar of surface restorer and abrasive pad for pre-application cleaning, a nylon buffer and micro-fibre polishing cloth, plus the all important AllClear SWIFT™ coating in a spray. Application takes only a few minutes and each Surface Protection System contains enough to provide approximately 16 square metres of coverage. The kit normally retails at £40.47, but with the discount now on offer it is available online from Lakes Bathrooms for just £30.35.

Tel: 01684 853870 www.lakesbathrooms.co.uk

Enq. 142

Garador



Garador has launched an impressive new style option for its popular Salisbury garage door range.

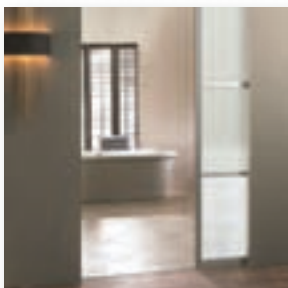
Fresh for 2014, black window panes are now available on this smart steel garage door. This exciting new look will add serious style to any property, adds privacy and acts as a deterrent for burglars.

The clean black look is achieved through a smooth sheet of solid black Perspex. There are no textures or lines in the panes, emphasising the fresh modern style of the design.

Tel: 01935 443709 www.garador.co.uk

Enq. 143

Draks



Creating a contemporary design-led look, the new UK-made stylish aluminium room dividers from Draks are ideal for all sorts of beautiful bathrooms, bedrooms and dressing rooms. The durable aluminium room dividers run in a rebated track in the floor so the doors become an integral part of the room. Draks uses a spring loaded, bottom weighted track system, so even large doors have great stability. Draks' aluminium room dividers are available with a wide choice of mirrored, laminated and coloured glass infills. Frame finishes can be brushed anodised or powder-coated, with RAL colours available, allowing the frame exactly to match individual interiors.

Enq. 144



Turnstyle Designs

Established since 1992, Turnstyle Designs is a British manufacturer of some of the world's most unique and specialised door, cabinet and bath hardware. Crafting to the very highest quality using a variety of methods, a huge range of designs and styles are available in a diverse range of materials. Materials and combinations include leather, pewter, brass, bronze, shell, glass, timber, resins and composites.

The style is as unique as the materials that are used, combining craftsmanship with engineering and tactility with durability. Suitable for residential or commercial projects, the ability to co-ordinate runs throughout all designs and finishes.

As well as a large catalogue range, Turnstyle Designs can custom design and manufacture to your requirement. For more information, call Turnstyle or visit the website.

Tel: 01271 325 325 www.turnstyledesigns.com

Enq. 145



Pre-painted black featheredge



Thermowood T&G shiplap cladding



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Enq. 146

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Enq. 147

Editor's Focus

JTPUMPS

Whatever your pumping requirements are, JTPumps can supply you it, all at affordable prices. It holds in stock and supplies packaged pumping stations to suit all applications whether sewage pumping stations or basement dewatering products. The company carries a large stock of plastic pipe and fittings, ensuring that it is able to provide you with everything you require.

Domestic sewage pumping stations come in all different sizes with single and twin sewage pumps handling 50mm solids or 65mm solids. The domestic packaged sewage pumping stations are designed to be easy to install and come pre-assembled, and comply to BS EN 12050-1:2001 / BS EN 7526:1998 standards.

Enq. 148

MARMOX

Marmox Specialist Building Products will be exhibiting at this year's EcoBuild on Stand N1210 at London's Excel centre between the 4th and 6th March 2014. Well known as experts in insulation – waterproofing, sound minimising, thermal insulation and fireproofing – Marmox will show a wide and diverse array of products including several recent additions to its range. Especially featured will be the lightweight Multiboard range that is equally suited to wetroom applications and for sound insulation elsewhere in the home. The Marmox Stand promises to be an interesting experience for anyone in the industry and a must for those directly involved, as most are, in areas involving insulation in all its forms.

Enq. 151

THE DECK TILE CO.

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, its pavers offer incredible technical performance but without compromising on the aesthetic. 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. Used in conjunction with height adjustable, fixed head or self-leveling pedestals or paver pads, the Levato Mono system makes it possible to create perfectly level finished surfaces over an uneven sub-surface, or single ply membrane.

Enq. 152

LANDY VENT

The Eccostove is an innovative new concept in woodburning technology using silicon carbide to create energy efficient wood combustion, providing whole home heating without plumbing. Eccostove has an 85.3 per cent efficiency rating and still emits 25 per cent of stored heat up to 12 hours after firing (dependant on model). There are four models in the range that will heat anything from a two bedroom property, right through to a five bedroom property, provided doors around the home are left open. For more information on Eccostove, check out the website or email the sales team.

Enq. 149



JETMASTER

HETAS Guide 2013 names Jetmaster's 18i and 60i the most efficient inset stoves in the UK. The range achieves blazing efficiencies of up to 86 per cent through its Pureburn Technology – increased efficiency with fewer harmful emissions. The 70i happily burn multi-fuel when using a basket grate, while the 16i and 18i burn wood and multi-fuel right from the get go, nothing else required. Each stove is built in the UK according to rigorous quality standards with a five year guarantee when registered. Crafted lovingly in Hampshire, these are British made stoves designed for British homes.

Enq. 150



BEAM VACUUM & VENTILATION

For over 35 years Beam Vacuum & Ventilation have been specialising in the supply and installation of centralised vacuum and ventilation systems in the UK & Ireland. A Beam Central Vacuum System by Electrolux provides healthier, quieter and convenient vacuuming and is suitable for new or existing homes. Mechanical ventilation systems are an essential part of today's airtight homes and help improve indoor air quality. Beam's wide range of highly sustainable and low energy systems, include: Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR), Mechanical Extract Ventilation (MEV) and Positive Input Ventilation (PIV).

Enq. 153

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Enq. 156



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Enq. 157

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Enq. 159

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Enq. 160



The Tile Association

No matter what size your project, The Tile Association points out that professional high-quality tiling will add a beautiful, long-lasting and eco-friendly finish to your installation. Tiled finishes provide a hygienic environment for many years and allow thorough cleaning without any deterioration of appearance, preventing the build-up of allergenic material. Inherently, ceramic tile is inhospitable to dust mites, mould, germs and bacteria and is often a desirable surface covering for people with allergies or asthma. There are also a number of ways in which tiled finishes contribute to the energy efficiency of a building. The use of tile can help lower a building's energy footprint, reduce operational costs and serve as a valuable strategy in meeting energy consumption reduction targets specified by green building standards and rating systems. The Tile Association has strict membership criteria which makes a TTA retailer, contractor or fixer a good starting point for professional help on your project. Visit the TTA website to check any service and support available to you and/or the membership benefits.

info@tiles.org.uk www.tiles.org.uk

Enq. 161

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Enq. 160

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NEW! 60i LOW & 70i LOW WOOD BURNERS					
60i Low	Wood only	6.5 kW output	78% efficient	DEFRA approved	No air supply required
70i Low	Wood only	8.5 kW output	73% efficiency	DEFRA approved	No air supply required

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Enq. 162

CLEARVIEW STOVES

Britain's leading manufacturer of clean burning wood stoves

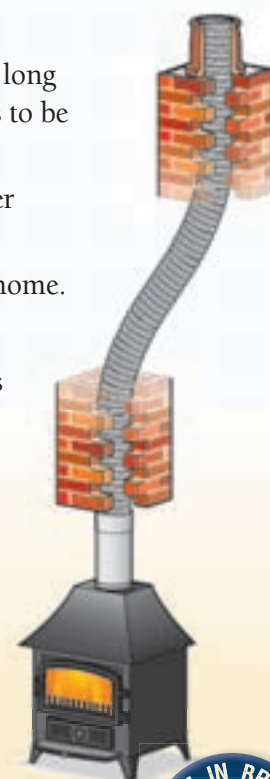
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www.clearviewstoves.com



Absolut chimney system with integrated insulated combustion air shaft

Schiedel Chimney Systems Ltd., has just launched the Absolut chimney system with an integrated insulated combustion air shaft. Modern heating technologies place enormous demands on a chimney system. On the one hand, low flue gas temperatures from energy efficient appliances, including gas, oil and pellets, lead to condensate forming within the chimney. On the other hand, chimneys used on solid fuel applications must also be capable of withstanding a chimney fire.

Schiedel Absolut represents a comprehensive solution to the four main challenges raised by modern heating technology combined with the latest energy efficient building techniques.

1. Challenge 1 – Condensation forming on the chimney block

If external temperatures are very cold, then moisture from the surrounding air can turn to condensation on the surface of the block, leading to damp spots, mould and a possible risk to health ensues. The Absolut system employs a core of

foam concrete as insulation in the blocks that form the shaft, ensuring that block surface temperatures remain above the critical dew point.

2. Challenge 2 – Heat transmission to the outside of the building via the chimney block

The top and bottom of the chimney are the two most sensitive areas, when it comes to heat transmission between the warm interior of the house and the cold exterior. The Absolut system has specifically designed thermal insulation blocks to prevent this heat transmission.

3. Challenge 3 – The supply of air to the appliance in an air tight house

The modern house is efficiently sealed against drafts, which means that combustion air has to be brought directly to the appliance. The Absolut system has an integrated air shaft which supplies the appliance with the right amount of air it needs for combustion, drawn directly from above the roof, minimising problems due to prevailing winds.

4. Challenge 4 – How to cope with the extremes of temperature – resistance to condensate even after a chimney fire

The Absolut profiled liner has been tested and approved with a GW3 designation meaning that it is soot fire resistant, condensate resistant even after a chimney fire and is corrosion resistant on gas, oil and solid fuel applications.

For further details on Schiedel Absolut and all other complementary products and services please visit the website

www.schiedel.co.uk

or contact David Wright at Schiedel on 0191 416 1150

Enq. 164



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Enq. 165



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Enq. 168

The home of inspiration, expert advice and homebuilding specialists returns to the NEC in full force

A visit to The National Homebuilding & Renovating Show, one of Britain's biggest self build and renovation events, from 27-30 March at the NEC in Birmingham is a must for those building a new home from scratch or tackling a renovation project. For 2014, the exhibition, aimed at the serious self builder, is re-energising itself with a host of new features including the Energy Saving Home and Sustainable Homes Show. Visitors will be inundated with niche products and over 500 specialist exhibitors that you won't find on the high street.

Piers Taylor, award-winning RIBA architect and co-presenter of BBC2 series *The House that £100k Built*, will be making his debut appearance at the show this year by joining one of the country's leading property experts, Michael Holmes, editor-in-chief of *Homebuilding & Renovating* magazine, and Charlie Luxton, sustainable architectural designer and presenter of *More4's Building the Dream*, who makes a comeback for the first time since 2011 to educate and inspire visitors about the innovations and trends within the industry. Piers is joining the show to share his knowledge on striking the balance between high quality architecture and amazing value when building your own home, including the importance of investing time and money in design detail and recommendations on selecting the right designer. For bespoke advice, attendees can take advantage of a free 15 minute consultation with Piers in the Ask The Experts zone.

Reducing energy and making financial savings is increasingly at the forefront of Britons' minds, and this year, the first ever interactive consumer Energy Saving Home is making its debut at the NEC. The Energy Saving Home is a walk-through experience offering insight into the latest technologies to help you save money and control your household energy consumption. Eco living is made simple by guiding consumers around the Energy Saving Home, equipped with all the expertise, knowledge and first-class products you'll need to retrofit your house. In addition, a series of 15-minute seminars will run alongside this purpose-built feature to educate visitors on how to maximise the savings on their home.

The best possible time to think about sustainability is when you are in the planning stages of building or renovating your home. This year's new Sustainable Homes Show is where serious builders will gain a greater understanding of how to incorporate ecological materials such as

organic insulation, sustainable wood flooring, solvent-free paints and rainwater harvesting systems into your project. Visitors will unearth the best products and technologies for 2014 and meet credible tradesmen, all in the one dedicated mini-show.

Charlie Luxton offers 12 years' experience in designing eco homes and has a passion for environmentally friendly community projects. Charlie will be on hand to guide home builders through the steps involved in making greener decisions when considering home improvements.



All the experts provide credible commentary and recommendations for every aspect of your project, ranging from design, finance, renewables, energy sustainability, restoration and legal issues. The team of specialist property

experts to join Michael Holmes, Piers Taylor and Charlie Luxton this year also includes: Jason Orme, editor of *Homebuilding & Renovating* magazine; Roger Hunt, award-winning writer and eco expert; David Snell, self build and plot finding expert; Chris Reeves, chartered builder and lawyer; Hugo Tugman, architectural designer and *Real Homes* magazine design expert; and Bob Branscombe, chartered surveyor and builder.

For fresh comprehensive tips and solutions tailored to your requirements, head over to The Advice Centre where you will discover all the expertise you need to achieve your project. Within this centre, visitors can book a free 15 minute consultation with a property specialist

Continued overleaf...

from the Ask The Experts, Ask The Architects or The Planning Clinic teams. Make the most of your session and come well prepared with the questions you want to ask – remember to bring your plans with you.

Each year, Ask The Experts continues to be one of the most popular features among show goers. The *Homebuilding & Renovating* magazine specialists will be on hand throughout the weekend with invaluable information and advice, no matter how complex your project is. Running into difficulties or confusion over planning permission applications? *Homebuilding & Renovating* magazine expert Sally Tagg and her team of leading planning experts from Foxley Tagg will also be available at The Planning Clinic to provide customers with an insight into the most recently updated rules, regulations and bespoke advice to put your woes at ease. Visitors can also attend Sally's daily planning permission seminar in the Self Build Theatre.

Ask the Architects enables guests to meet certified RIBA architects such as Piers Taylor who will consult on design ideas and the intricacies behind the build process from site analysis to developing a construction brief for your contractors. Don't miss your opportunity to chat to a member of the team to help get your project off the ground.

Specialist companies and the experienced *Homebuilding & Renovating* magazine experts ensure visitors are supplied with valuable insight and inspirational recommendations to assist you

in creating your dream property. The experts will present their specialist field with in-depth presentations throughout the Masterclass Programme. There are 52 sessions in total during the show covering a variety of topics including: custom build homes; finding a reliable builder; eco-refurbishment; landscape design; finance; smart home; and permitted development rights. Each 20-minute session is free, no need to book, just make sure you arrive early so that you get a seat!

Attendees can also choose from eight free daily seminar sessions taking place in the Self Build Theatre and Eco Home Theatre where the show's key experts share their first-hand industry expertise for 30 minutes. Whether you're a novice or a serial self builder, these sessions provide details on how to add space and value, reveal self build secrets and offer renewable energy options for the home.

No matter how small or large your project, visitors will leave with an abundance of credible information to help you along with your self build or renovation plans.

Standard tickets are £12 if booked before 3pm on 26 March or £16 on the door (a £1.75 transaction fee applies). Children under 16 go free. Tickets also allow entry into both the National Homebuilding & Renovating Show and the new Home Improvement Show, taking place in the same hall.

For more information and tickets, visit www.homebuildingshow.co.uk or call the ticket hotline on 0844 581 1377.



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Enq. 169



James Latham

stand no D118

James Latham is gearing up for the Homebuilding and Renovating show to be held at the NEC (27-30th March 2014; stand D118) where visitors will be able to see a number of its cladding, decking and flooring products. At the show, Lathams' will feature four of its focus products for the homebuilding and renovation market. Accoya® Cladding is the world's leading high technology long life wood offering a perfect solution for exterior cladding, siding and façades where aesthetics, less frequent maintenance, dimensional stability, durability and insulation value are key considerations. Lifecycle by UPM ProFi, made from 95 per cent recycled materials, is a wood-plastic composite decking that has the luxurious look and feel of a real hardwood decking. UPM ProFi Deck is a coloured decking solution for terraces, garden decks, patios, marinas and walkways. Bausen 1757 delivers an instant sense of history and 'aged charm', evocative of old reclaimed floors found in classical French Chateaux. James Latham's Managing Director Chris Sutton commented: "The homebuilding and renovating market is an important one for us and one for which we now have a really strong offering."

Enq. 170



Living green roofs – your questions answered

A living green roof is an asset to any building, from a bin store to a garden office. As well as improving the look of a building, it will save you money on fuel for heating and cooling, double the life of the waterproofing, help manage rainwater and of course, provide much needed habitat for wildlife.

Whether you are designing a new building with a living roof, or you would like to retro-fit a living roof onto an existing structure, Enviromat can help. Take a tour of our website to learn about costs, benefits and the practicalities of design and installation or visit us at the Homebuilding and Renovation Show at the NEC.

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Enq. 172

Jetmaster



One of the UK's most efficient inset stove (18i: see HETAS Guide 2013) just became a freestanding model! The new 18q is a powerful wood and multi-fuel convector stove, styled with a minimal clean line design. All the popular features of the successful 18i are available in the 18q: a 4.9 kW output, 85 per cent fuel efficiency, Defra approved for burning wood in smokeless zones. An added benefit of the 18q is that it warms your room in two ways: heat gently radiates through the glass as well as convection air is projected from around the firebox. Available to be installed on a beautiful steel bench designed especially for the 18q, the bench, like the 18q, is engineered in Britain.

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Redbacks Kneepads



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 manufacturers of the 'Redbacks' cushioning kneepads, winners of the '2012 SATRA Best Innovation in Occupational PPE Award'. "It is vital to have the correct knee protection in the workplace," says Lockyer. The kneepads unique 'cushioning technology' distributes body weight evenly, elevating the knees to relieve back pain and reduce pressure on knee, leg, ankle and foot joints, while minimising the risk of possible injury from sharp or penetrating objects.

Enq. 174

Floor Tile:Frame_Carpet

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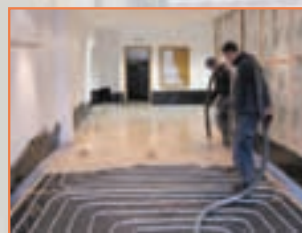
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Folding & sliding doors showcase

1 ALTITUDE ALUMINIUM

There's no denying the fact that the doors will be closed more than they are open so it's important to think about what you will be looking through. If you have a pleasant patio area with a secluded garden a set of some the world's finest folding doors are perfect for those lazy summer days spent opening up the rear of your property. If on the other hand you have a view that spans far and wide, Altitude Aluminium finds sliders are often a better option so you don't break up that beautiful view! Whatever you are hoping to achieve, the company's experts are on hand to help you make the right decision. www.altitudealuminium.co.uk

enq. 177



2 DURATION WINDOWS

Essex based Duration Windows is a leading manufacturer of slimline, aluminium bi-fold doors. Aluminium is the perfect material for use in bi-folds as it offers strength, slimness and low maintenance. A low threshold option is available to create a seamless transition from inside to outside and you can have between two and eight panels in a wide variety of opening configurations. There are hundreds of colours to choose from and you can have different colours inside and out. High quality glass is standard and options such as self-clean and tinted are also available. Get an instant price online at www.duration.co.uk

enq. 178

3 1ST FOLDING SLIDING DOORS

1st Folding Sliding Doors Ltd offers the supply and/or installation of specialist concertina style and sliding doors. The company has many years' experience and offers a personal service, handling the project from concept to completion. The in-house fitting team ensures the installation is carried out with the minimum disturbance. 1st Folding Sliding Doors can do a free site survey to offer advice and will follow up with a no obligation quotation. Folding sliding doors provide improved access because the design allows the ultimate in free-running, lightweight operation.

www.1stslidingfoldingdoors.co.uk

enq. 179



Continued overleaf...

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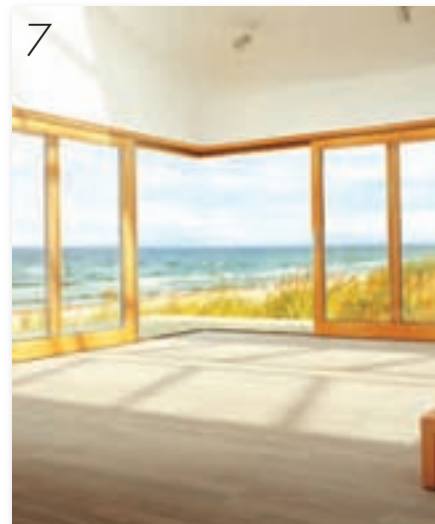
Enq. 180

Folding & sliding doors showcase *continued...*



4 ARDEN WINDOWS
Arden Windows offers the complete folding sliding door range of open in and out door segments and also top and bottom hung systems. They are easily installed and even easier to operate and maintain, with advanced Weatherseal technology.
www.ardenwindows.net

enq. 181



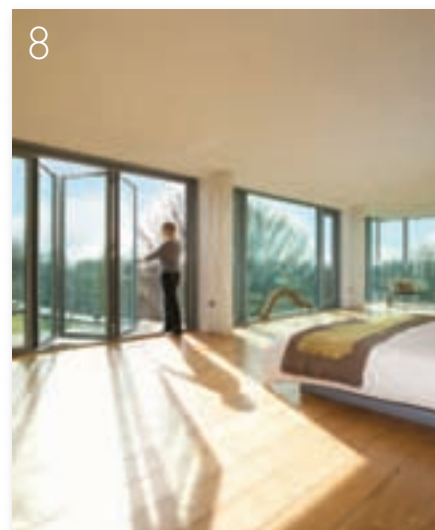
5 COMAR ARCHITECTURAL ALUMINIUM SYSTEMS
The aluminium Comar 7P.i folding/sliding door system offers a myriad of possibilities for commercial or residential projects. Comar 7P.i FSD provides a versatile moveable wall that allows space and light into any project. www.comar-alu.co.uk

enq. 182



6 LITCHFIELD GROUP
The Litchfield Group's pioneering bi-fold door system has a 0.8W/m²K U-value. The Sheerframe Bi-fold door achieves amazing thermal performance and energy efficiency thanks to a unique four-seal design and unbeatable air and water tightness.
www.litchfield-group.co.uk

enq. 183



7 OLSEN DOORS & WINDOWS
Olsen Doors & Windows has developed the latest in sliding door technology – an all timber corner door with moving post. This pioneering product is available in an all aluminium system from Olsen's SUNFLEX range and enables the corner of a building to be opened. www.olsenuk.com

enq. 184



8 SCHUECO UK
The Schueco ASS 70 FD, a thermally insulated folding/sliding door system from Schueco UK, is ideal for residential use and offers a variety of fold and slide opening combinations, thus giving complete flexibility.
www.schueco.com/web/uk

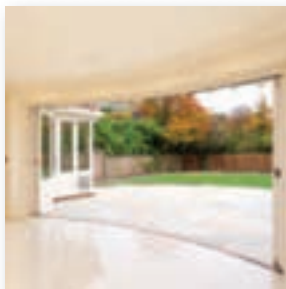
enq. 185



9 TANUMSFÖNSTER AB
Tanum's Swedish triple glazed sliding doors offer you quality, performance, warmth and security. With optimum light and views, easy sliding doors, long life, lower maintenance and highly insulated triple glazing, they also keep you cool in summer.
www.tanumsfonster.co.uk

enq. 186

Brio

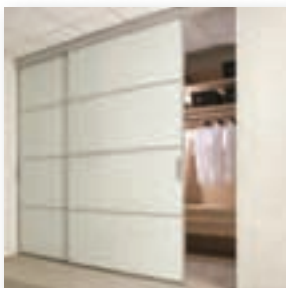


Brio, a designer and manufacturer of sliding and folding door hardware solutions, is helping Input Joinery of Andover create its prestigious hardwood bi-folding door installations, including a highly specialist curved bi-folding door project. Sliding folding timber doors are a relatively new concept in the UK for domestic properties and are becoming very popular in both the new-build and replacement window/door market. Mark Fisher, managing director at Input Joinery

commented on the design: "They can open to almost 95 per cent of the opening available, unlike traditional sliding patio doors which only open to about 45 per cent of the available width."

Enq. 187

P C Henderson



Creating more space in the home is high on the agenda as many of today's homes are smaller than they were 100 years ago. P C Henderson's solutions can help increase the interior floor space available by the use of sliding door gear systems which provide an easy access solution that is versatile and silent in use. They can be used as room dividers to create a flexible living space without compromising on an open plan design, which helps create space and allow more light into the

property by removing walls and opening up rooms. Sliding door gear systems can also be used for wardrobe and entrance doors.

Tel: 0191 377 0701 www.pchenderson.co.uk

Enq. 188

Glazing Innovations Ltd
6 Barnes Close, Brandon, Suffolk IP27 0NY
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Fax: +44 (0) 1842 813556
Email: sales@glazinginnovations.co.uk
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Enq. 189



DURATION WINDOWS

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Enq. 190

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- Pumps

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Enq. 191



Warmup

Warmup Insulation boards have a key role to play in maximising the efficiency of underfloor heating. Insulation is not only needed to comply with Building Regulations, but improves efficiency, increases the responsiveness of your heating system and ensures heat generated within the dwelling is not lost. Warmup offers a wide range of insulation, in a choice of thickness and compressive strengths to suit your project and budget. According to its research, this efficiency usually pays for the cost of the insulation boards in two and a half years. The use of insulation is optimised with Warmup electric and hydronic underfloor heating systems tested in its EN442-2 Research Centre in Germany and various post occupancy monitored houses including BRE (Building Research Establishment) Renewable House. Products are supported with the best warranties and SafetyNet™ installation guarantee. Warmup also offers controls including the 3iE Energy-Monitor Thermostat, which can save you at least 10 per cent on your energy bills, altogether creating the perfect heating system. Save energy and money with Warmup.

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Enq. 192

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Enq. 193

Mitsubishi Electric



Mitsubishi Electric has launched two new online videos to highlight the benefits of renewable heat pump technology for both homeowners and landlords. The first animation focuses on how the Ecodan range can offer reduced running costs, ease installation and lower carbon emissions for social housing providers and landlords. The second video looks at the issues from a homeowner's point of view and highlights how renewable Ecodan can provide a viable, cost-effective alternative to the escalating price of oil heating. Both can be viewed on the company's website.

Tel: 01707 282880 www.heating.mitsubishielectric.co.uk

Enq. 194

Infrarad



Stylish, good looking and highly efficient space heating that consumes half the energy required to run conventional radiators is now available from Infrarad Limited. The Contract range is a collection of five lightweight composite panels designed for wall or floor mounting. Three hard-wired models are available in output ratings of 500W, 800W and 1kW. Panels are available in plain gloss white and plain gloss black, with matching frames, and are designed for a surface temperature of below 90°C. Infrarad's products all use radiant heat, which is more efficient and avoids creating a stuffiness inside the room. In many instances, it can also be more cost-effective than traditional central heating.

Enq. 195

Original FARAL Aluminium Radiators, always appreciated, often imitated since 1966

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Longo 80



Flat Front Sill Line

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AEL
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FARAL
Die Cast Aluminium Radiators



White TA8W15 thermostatic valve set

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Enq. 196

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Enq. 197

Heatec EV increases product range

Heatec can trace its origins back more than 25 years to a group of designers and engineers who set about solving the then difficult problem of heating sensitive areas while ensuring that the young and the elderly were not put at risk. A control unit was developed and patented which gained wide acceptance with local councils responsible for care homes, colleges for student lodgings, the heating of public places and for areas requiring maintained environments such as National Trust buildings and similar.

The Heatec range of cast iron radiators has been enhanced by the inclusion of three new models to Heatec's European manufactured ranges of cast iron.

The Imperial Victorian range now includes heights of 430mm, 580mm, and 980mm as standard, as well as the original 680mm high model. Additionally five column, three column and two column cast iron Victorian radiators are available on request. The very popular Bohemia range has seen the new 990mm high radiator added to the standard range.

Offered for the first time is the new designer range of Bohemia Retro cast iron radiators at 640mm high with traditionally patterned cast iron surface suitable for traditional buildings and very modern designer homes.

The development of refurbishment projects

bringing new life to old warehouses and other traditional buildings, covered by Class 1 and Class 2 preservation orders, has been helped by the use of Heatec electric radiators, thus minimising the damage to buildings' infrastructure.

Heatec continues to develop with its latest ranges of radiators, which now include chrome plated radiators and towel rails, a new range of designer cast aluminium radiators and traditional European cast iron radiators.

Recent additions include the EV range of electric radiators and panel heaters manufactured by the company's Spanish partner and available in both oil filled types and with dry elements. These radiators can be remotely controlled and offer up to 40 per cent energy saving.

Many Heatec radiators are also available for use in wet systems – oil and gas fired – together with accessories. A conversion service is also offered for customers' own radiators (subject to quality – not second-hand).

Projects have included the Scottish Parliament, Chartwell (home of Winston Churchill), Fountains Abbey, The Argory (in Northern Ireland), Stonehill Manor (Worcestershire), The Vine, Ightham Moat, MOD Cat.3 Buildings, St.Giles' Cathedral, Portsmouth Boys School, Snows Hill Manor Broadway, and many others.

(NB. Heatec EV is a registered brand name licensed to Heating Direct Limited.)



BOHEMIA RETRO



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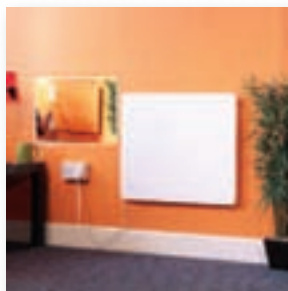
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Orbital Heating



ecoPANEL™ heaters are an amazing new slimline solution for providing efficient room heating, with running costs as low as 2p per hour. Using convection technology, the heater manufactured from a composite based cement material has many benefits over existing heaters. The heater has two heat settings (200W and 400W) and a built in adjustable thermostat. ecoPANEL heaters can also be installed in less than five minutes without the need for hard wiring and can be painted to match the decor of the room. The 545mm x 645mm, 12mm thick heater comes with a two year warranty as standard.

Tel: 0845 486 8080 www.ecopanelheater.co.uk

Enq. 199

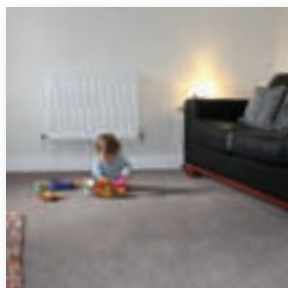
DAB Pumps



Following the launch of its e.sybox low water pressure boosting system, DAB Pumps says it has gone one step closer to creating complete peace of mind by introducing a three year guarantee and a wall mounted bracket system, making installation even easier. The e.sybox helps installers save time and money by bringing a 'plumb and play' dimension to installation. It can be fitted vertically or horizontally on anti-vibration mountings bringing choice and flexibility to where and how it can be plumbed in. Now there is a third option, a wall mounted bracket system called 'e.sywall' that allows the pump to be installed directly onto the wall in locations where floor space is minimal.

Enq. 200

Mitsubishi Electric



The installation of an Ecodan air source heat pump from Mitsubishi Electric into a three-bedroom detached house in Bedfordshire has demonstrated how effectively the heat pump will work in conjunction with traditional heating systems to maximise efficiency and reduce both installation costs and emissions. The 5kW Ecodan and pre-plumbed 180-litre cylinder is working as a hybrid heating system with a gas boiler and a wood burning stove, to provide all the heating and hot

water the family of three needs. The system has returned a COP (Coefficient of Performance) of 3.0.

Tel: 01707 282880 www.mitsubishielectric.co.uk

Enq. 201

Eurostove



From British suppliers Eurostove comes the Décor Plus wood burning stove with double sided viewing and heating to provide a roomful of warmth plus an enchanting atmosphere for the contemporary open-plan home. Designed and manufactured by quality Eurostove suppliers Jide of Belgium, it is designed to stand in or near the centre of an open room either in a central wall, on a plinth or mounted to the floor on a glass floorplate. The Décor Plus is available in two sizes and different finishes and uses a closed combustion system that allows air to be sourced from outside of the room.

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Enq. 202

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Enq. 203

Mitsubishi Electric



Mitsubishi Electric has launched a dedicated Ecodan selection tool to coincide with the Government's announcement that heat pumps are now included in the non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). The new Ecodan selection tool allows anyone to examine the viability of heat pumps for their building and shows both running cost comparisons against other technologies and payback periods, which take the RHI payments into account.

Tel: 01707 282880 <http://heating.mitsubishielectric.co.uk/ecodanselectiontool/Pages/default.aspx>

Enq. 204

Abode



The new Abode Aurora temperature indicating monobloc kitchen tap has been designed to demonstrate accurately the temperature of the water exiting the spout. The unique LED base ring changes colour with the temperature of the water passing through the tap. This unique safety feature allows a clear visual colour display of the ambient temperature of the water. Red for hot, blue for cold and a stream of pink shades for tepid water in between. The tap is available in

chrome only and is simple and quick to install with the temperature sensors housed within the tap body.

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Enq. 205



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Enq. 206

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Enq. 207

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Enq. 208

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Enq. 209

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Enq. 210

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Enq. 211

T-T Pumps



T-T, a leading UK manufacturer and supplier of pumps, controls, valves and ancillary equipment has launched a new 336 page catalogue. This comprehensive catalogue features all the standard products you come to expect from the company but also showcases a vast array of new products and more detailed information making product selection even easier for you. T-T has endeavoured to make the catalogue as user friendly as possible reflecting their popular

website. There are 12 main sections covering submersible and surface mounted pumps for waste and clean water, accessories, pumping stations, valves and control systems.

Enq. 212

Northcot Brick



Northcot Brick, one of the UK's foremost independent brick manufacturers, has won a prestigious 2013 'Build It Award' in the category of 'Best use of Brick'. The award winning project, Norham Gardens, is an impressive historic residence located in the North Oxford Conservation Area. Northcot Brick uses traditional bench mould techniques that have hardly changed over the centuries. The bricks are then fired in one of the last remaining coal fired kilns in the UK, in

order to achieve an instant maturity that can enhance both new build and restoration projects.

Tel: 01386 700551 www.northcotbrick.co.uk

Enq. 213

Vent-Axia



Vent-Axia, a leader in low-carbon ventilation, is celebrating winning the Building Services Product Innovation of the Year in this year's prestigious Retro Expo Awards. Scooping the award for its revolutionary Lo-Carbon Temptra the company received the accolade at an awards ceremony held at the Business Design Centre, London on 5th December. The Lo-Carbon Temptra was the UK's first single room heat recovery unit that can be retrofitted through a 100mm diameter hole in the wall. This

allows inefficient extract fans to be easily replaced with a discreet, low energy alternative that offers up to 84 per cent heat recovery.

Tel: 0844 856 0590 www.vent-axia.com

Enq. 214

DMMP



Five years ago, a care home organisation took delivery of PolyWood tables and chairs for its Margate site, and has now taken delivery of more PolyWood garden furniture for its new Brentwood residence. DMMP, which imports the weather-proof PolyWood furniture and is the UK distributor, is delighted with this vote of confidence. Proven over time, Poly-Wood is unaffected by sun, rain, snow, wind, saltwater, chlorine and mildew. As it is non-porous and

uses stainless steel fixings, the furniture can be left outside all year round in the most hostile of climates; washing with a mild detergent will keep it clean.

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Enq. 215

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COREglow

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Enq. 216

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Enq. 217

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Enq. 218

DeckSafe Solutions



DeckSafe Solutions has received a huge boost thanks to having its Anti-Slip Convex Decking Strips nominated as 'Product of the Week' by The Daily Mirror's DIY expert, Donny Sheridan. DeckSafe's Convex Decking Strips provide an excellent alternative to the high maintenance and upkeep of timber decking. Designed to fit directly onto existing timber decking, the unique chamfered edges ensure a low profile fit, thereby removing any trip risk. Available in either 50mm or 100mm widths and in lengths up to 3,000mm, the strips are available in aesthetically pleasing colours of black, beige or yellow, providing the finishing touch to any decking area.

Enq. 219

Fakro



Fakro's stylish new flat roof windows are ideal for passive house designs. Clear and opaque polycarbonate domes are available alongside traditional profiles which can be manufactured to match old skylights. All have a white internal surface, a P2A laminated inner pane and multi-chamber PVC frames filled with polystyrene insulation to provide U-values as low as 0.55 W/m²K. Electrically operated, manual and non-opening windows are available, electrical operation being supported by a built-in rain sensor. Windows can be installed in roofs of 0-15° and mounted within an upstand to an extra 15cm height.


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Enq. 220

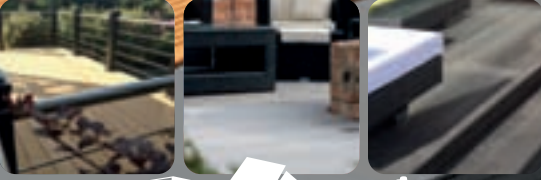
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Enq. 222

A bright idea

By Lee Green, technical director at Kloeber UK Ltd



In the last few years roof lights and sky lights have featured heavily in building design and with good reason. Natural daylight is an essential element of any interior space but one that is still all too frequently overlooked. Often, a building will be designed with too much emphasis on its outward appearance and not enough on the interior experience, a major factor of which is light.

A couple of decades ago, the omission of light through the roof in the building's design could have been excused as the options available for homeowners to bring the sun's rays into their project were restrictive, of low specification and, let's be honest, not too easy on the eye either. Fast forward to present day and the choice of options is vast with many different types of roof light, specification levels, bespoke design options and most with aesthetically pleasing designs at sensible prices. There is now a complementary roof light product for any project that will result in daylight, that wonderful natural resource, streaming into your interior, improving light levels and lifting spirits.

So which type should you consider? There are some important questions to ask yourself on the route to choosing the correct roof light for your project.

1 What type of roof do you have? If you're building a flat roof then you would naturally consider flat roof lights but pitched, hipped and lantern types might also be of interest.

Flat roof lights usually have a minimal frame that is hidden from interior view. Large glass units can be specified in this situation leaving the occupier with an unhindered view of the sky, clouds and overhanging trees and architecture above. This is particularly effective when the roof light is positioned above a seating area like a dining table for instance or in a living room. 'Walk-on' glazing options mean that you can still use the roof as a terrace if you wish. Pitched roof lights are also an option here and, due to their shape, can often add an element of architectural interest to the design.

If your roof is pitched and you have a vaulted ceiling then mono-pitched roof lights or even those that sit at the apex (ridge) of your roof will enhance your property. Due to their bespoke nature these will absorb a little more of your budget but you will be rewarded with a significant architectural feature as a result.

Continued overleaf...



PITCHED ROOF LIGHTS ADD BOTH HEIGHT AND LIGHT TO YOUR ROOM. A PITCHED ROOF LIGHT CAN BE DESIGNED WITH THE OPTION OF OPENING VENTS FOR ADDITIONAL AIRFLOW

2 How much light do you require? The size of your roof light will of course be one of the first considerations and one that is directly relevant to how much light will pass through it. Factors like rafter spacing and tile details will need to be taken into account here and your builder or roofer will be able to advise you on this.

If your intention is for maximum light then try to avoid options with a significant amount of framing, such as lanterns and pitched types. These will allow less light through them than frameless types.

3 Material type? The three main options here are uPVC, aluminium and timber. uPVC will be the cheapest of the three but in the case of pitched roof lights can sometimes look chunky and clumsy, especially if the roof light itself is small. Aluminium offers slim sight-lines to maximise the amount of glass and is arguably the best option as it ticks the cost, design, size and low-maintenance boxes on your wish list. For properties that are of a more traditional design the timber option will be more appropriate.

4 Do you require ventilation through the roof light? Will you require it to open? Whichever roof light you choose, it's very likely that you will have the option of specifying it to open for ventilation purposes and in some

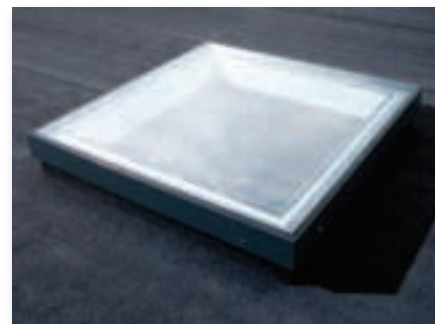
cases, even for access purposes.

Those of us that remember our physics lessons will know that hot air rises and, with built-in opening mechanisms, this air can be quickly released therefore avoiding uncontrollable temperature increase through solar gain in the living space below.

5 If it opens, will it be accessible or will you require remote operation? If your roof light is within easy reach you may only require a handle or a manual winding rod. For less accessible situations, much better to specify a remote opening control via a switch on a wall or a hand-held remote controller or even temperature sensors for automatic opening and rain sensors for automatic closing.

6 Which type of glass will you choose? Your chosen supplier will supply you with glass that meets the requirements of the UK Building Regulations, however there are additional choices.

If your roof light is likely to be south facing then you might need to consider restricting the amount of heat passing through the glass from the sun to reduce solar gain. This can very easily be done by specifying solar-control glass, which can reduce the UV rays that pass through the glass itself by up to 80 per cent with only a small loss of light transmittance and at not much extra cost.



FLAT ROOF LIGHTS ARE DESIGNED FOR FLAT ROOFS TO MAXIMISE NATURAL DAYLIGHT INTO YOUR HOME AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDING A SLEEK, MINIMALISTIC FINISH BOTH INSIDE AND OUT

Self-cleaning glass is another worthwhile option. It may not be as magical as its name suggests but, due to its coating on the exterior surface, it will encourage the rain to sheet down the glass taking most of the dirt with it and reducing the need for cleaning. Both this and the solar-control options should be available from all reputable suppliers.

Whichever of the above options you choose and whichever product you specify, you will undoubtedly enrich your living experience to the point when you will wonder why you didn't do it sooner!

Enq. 223



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Enq. 224

The evolution of the smart home

Rob Sutherland, managing director of Inspired Dwellings, specialists in the design and installation of home technology, shows how smart homes are evolving

The smart home has been around as a concept since the 1970s. Early smart homes were primarily limited to home entertainment for the affluent or enthusiasts. In particular smartphones have made the smart home both more accessible and more relevant to how we live today.

It is a vital area for self builders wanting to add value and usability to their projects. Home cinema, streaming music and multi-room entertainment work with smart lighting, while remotely controlled and connected security systems provide real peace of mind as they protect the home.

Basic cable infrastructure

The most crucial part of any smart home is the wiring – also known as the cable infrastructure. Having the right infrastructure in your property means that, as the market and technology expands, new products can be easily integrated at the time of build, or even retrospectively fitted.

The cable infrastructure allows everything from televisions to laptops and tablets and lighting control systems to communicate with one another.

The best investment to make is on high quality cabling. By deciding to wire with high quality category six cables at the very start of the build, you allow for high data transfer speeds. By putting a data point in every room you create a blank canvas as to how the rooms can be used.

If developments are being done with investment in mind this approach is essential. A comprehensive infrastructure reassures any prospective buyer that their new home will cope with all the latest technology – without the expense or hassle of refitting and rewiring.

Stable internet

Today, internet access in every room is a given. The internet is no longer just about communication or entertainment. Smart homes are part of what is now known as an ecosystem (often called 'the internet of things'). This is all about connectivity and devices being able to communicate and synchronise with one another in a way that is useful.

Continued overleaf...



7.1 HOME CINEMA WITH COFFER CEILING LIGHTING AND HIDDEN PROJECTOR UNIT



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With the right system in place homeowners can always opt to adjust heating, hot water, control lighting and blinds or even turn devices on and off from a smart phone while they are out

Take television and the way we access our entertainment. Your infrastructure needs to support multi-channel usage – social media interaction, online streaming, on-demand services – as well as cope with multiple devices to watch it all on. These will be laptops, tablets and smart phones as well as a main television. Solutions like Apple TV mean multi-room audio and entertainment can be achieved very cost effectively, but only if the streaming and download capability is there.

Ensuring connectivity is integrated into the build right from the start means homes don't just rely on wireless solutions, which could cause costly problems down the line.

85 INCH PLASMA SCREEN WITH
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Managing energy consumption

Rising water and energy costs have put this high on the agenda. Statistics show that at least one in four UK homes waste money by leaving on devices and unnecessarily running heating. In the summer, it's worth remembering that the energy discussion turns and is often around cooling.

With the right system in place homeowners can always opt to adjust heating, hot water, control lighting and blinds or even turn devices on and off from a smart phone while they are out. Two popular systems in smart homes are single room controls and special heating.

In the home, heating can be controlled through single room controls where the temperature and lighting is adjusted through wall mounted, touch screen controls, room by room. This means energy is only used when the room is needed.

Another option is to consider spacial heating. This is run through a sensor system that learns your lifestyle habits. Sensors in rooms turn on and off lights, televisions and screens can be dimmed to save energy and even forgotten windows close themselves.

Design led

The first question we are usually asked is 'so where does all this wiring and kit go?' The technology will be there to power all aspects of the home but it needs to be integrated and blended in with classic – and innovative – design principles.

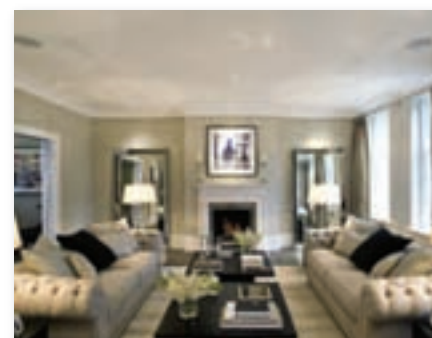
Ensuring the home has a safe, properly ventilated place for all the cabling to go back to is the primary consideration. Basements are a popular choice, but they must have adequate air and temperature control. In smaller spaces, a discrete custom-built area allows racks to be hidden away.

A good home technology specialist will show you how they can build, test and install a single control rack that will power all devices in the home. In our case, the entire system is built and tested off-site, meaning everything can be quickly installed at the end of the build.

With the right approach and knowledge of home technology, you should be able to work towards a smart home which has the right technology to work in the real world, and not fall into the trap of technology for technology's sake.

Enq. 225

IN-CEILING BOWERS & WILKINS SPEAKERS
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KNX



A KNX home automation system designed and installed by KNX UK Association members, International Lighting Solutions (ILS) and Bespoke Automation, is central to the conversion of an historic building into a prestigious high-end residential property. The system needed to be simple to use and user interfaces had to be of the highest specification and harmonise aesthetically with the property's contemporary interior design, styling and fittings. The Astor includes 140 lighting circuits, 15 independent underfloor heating zones and four groups of lantern windows that needed to be controlled. To overcome these challenges and integrate all the functions, a KNX based home automation system was recommended.

Enq. 226

TV Bed



TV Bed Ltd, the maker of the original New York and Chicago TV beds, has introduced the Azure TV bed, a contemporary designed TV bed that marries the latest technology with the finest UK craftsmanship to make the ultimate gadget for the bedroom. The Azure's ultra-slim profile, 140mm at its deepest point, is the thinnest TV bed in the UK. The Azure features a whisper-quiet motorised TV lift system and the latest Samsung HD-ready 32 inch LED television with built-in digital freeview tuner. The Azure is made from luxurious faux leather and available in three colours; black, white and chocolate brown to match most tastes and homes.

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Enq. 232

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Enq. 233

Jarabosky



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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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Enq. 237

Delta Membranes



Judging by the number of 'hits' it achieves on a daily basis, the Delta Membranes website is already an essential tool for specifiers. However, a fresh new look for the company's website promises to make it even more inviting. The website has undergone a complete overhaul, while retaining all informative data about the extensive range of Delta products and services. One of the highlights of this revamped website is the video library, with interactive video guides on a variety of

subjects. Among the design services featured on the website is a 'Downloads' button which takes the viewer to a whole host of technical CAD drawings and PDFs.

Enq. 238

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Enq. 239



Demista

Added value at minimal cost to any new or refurbished bathroom must be the inclusion of a demista™ heated mirror pad. This pad is easy to install, and will ensure a steam free mirror at all times, no matter how steamed up the bathroom. The heated mirror pads are available in a variety of sizes to suit most mirrors and in the case of a particularly large surface, they can be used in multiples. Running costs are minimal and ideally, once wired in to the lighting system, they will gently warm the mirror when the bathroom is in use.

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Both Cosyfloor™ and Ecofloor are earth screened so they can be safely used in areas such as bathrooms, wet rooms, laundry rooms and kitchens where water spillage is expected. The cable kits can easily be configured around immovable objects to achieve optimum coverage and results.

Enq. 240

Self builders warm to the idea of underfloor heating

Any self build project will benefit from flexible electric underfloor heating. Jenny Smith, marketing services manager at Vent-Axia explains how advances in technology means electric underfloor heating is a choice that is set to grow in popularity

Underfloor heating is on the rise...There are a host of reasons why this type of heating is featuring in more and more new self build projects. During recent years it has undergone a transformation as manufacturers have developed advanced systems that meet the comfort needs of households and energy efficiency demands of legislation.

As we all strive to create energy efficient homes the buildings we live in are becoming increasingly airtight. A positive outcome of this development is that our homes' heating demands are reducing making flexible, electric underfloor heating an increasingly attractive option.

Clear benefits

Electric underfloor heating has many recognised benefits. On the aesthetic side it is invisible and it gives you the freedom to place furniture where you like. You will not have to consider leaving radiators clear so you gain the most benefit from their heat. Also because it is silent in operation you won't be disturbed by the sound of radiators warming up or boilers starting.

Also using the large surface area of your home's floor to heat a room allows the low temperature radiant heat to provide evenly distributed warmth giving much higher levels of comfort when compared to other more traditional methods.

In these cost conscious times cutting fuel bills is always an attractive idea. Using this method the thermal output is 2-3°C lower than using a convection based system where the heat will collect close to the ceiling thus saving you 5-10 per cent of the running cost while eliminating draughts or cold spots in a room.

Continued overleaf...





[
 Ideal for renovation projects and new builds this kind of system can heat homes completely or in combination with other heating sources
]

There is no need to worry about complex installation either as electric underfloor heating mats and cables are economical and easy to install. The flexibility of electric underfloor heating is an added financial bonus since it can be installed one room at a time. This will allow you to cater to your individual comfort and budgetary requirements, adding further rooms as your finances allow. Using electricity for heating is also ideal if you live in a rural household with no mains gas supply.

As winter bites the cost of heating our homes is at the forefront of everyone's minds due to spiralling fuel prices. However, as gas supplies dwindle those of us who use gas will be hardest hit by the rises and it looks like this trend is set to continue.

In the long term using gas to heat our homes is not sustainable. Ultimately, as we move towards zero carbon homes and a decarbonised energy supply, electric heating will become the heating solution of choice. Manufacturers are already preparing for this transition and have developed a range of innovative products for the self build market.

Controls

What is key to this next generation of electric underfloor heating is new technological developments meaning its accurate controls ensure it is more energy efficient than ever before.

Some underfloor heating systems offer a heating thermostat controller that monitors both the floor and air temperature. This gives you the flexibility to gain maximum control over your environment by allowing you to set the thermostat at either the ideal floor or air temperature depending on the room. For example to gain maximum comfort you may choose to set the thermostat to meet an ideal floor temperature in the bathroom, while the lounge may be more comfortable meeting an ambient temperature target.



UNDERFLOOR HEATING CAN BE USED UNDER MANY TYPES OF FLOORING

Ideal for renovation projects and new builds this kind of system can heat homes completely or in combination with other heating sources.

As we move towards zero carbon homes and a decarbonised energy supply electric heating is set to become the heating solution of choice. Already boasting improved efficiency and control, electric underfloor heating is a technology that gives you control and comfort with the added bonus of style. As such it is a prudent choice for any self build project.

Enq. 241

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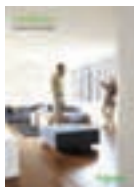
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