

April 2015

# HbD

Housebuilder & Developer

## Wasserhaus

Wasserhaus – designed by BrightSpace Architects – was a finalist in the Sunday Times British Homes Awards 2014 EcoHaus design competition

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sustainable  
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Is it the industry's  
image or Local  
Authorities that  
are holding back  
housing build  
numbers?

### Features in this issue

Disabled Products & Access  
Flood Control  
Ground Reinforcement  
Smoke & Fire Protection  
Social Housing  
Underfloor Heating

### Show previews

May Design Series – KBB  
Plantworx

### Supplement

Bathrooms & Kitchens

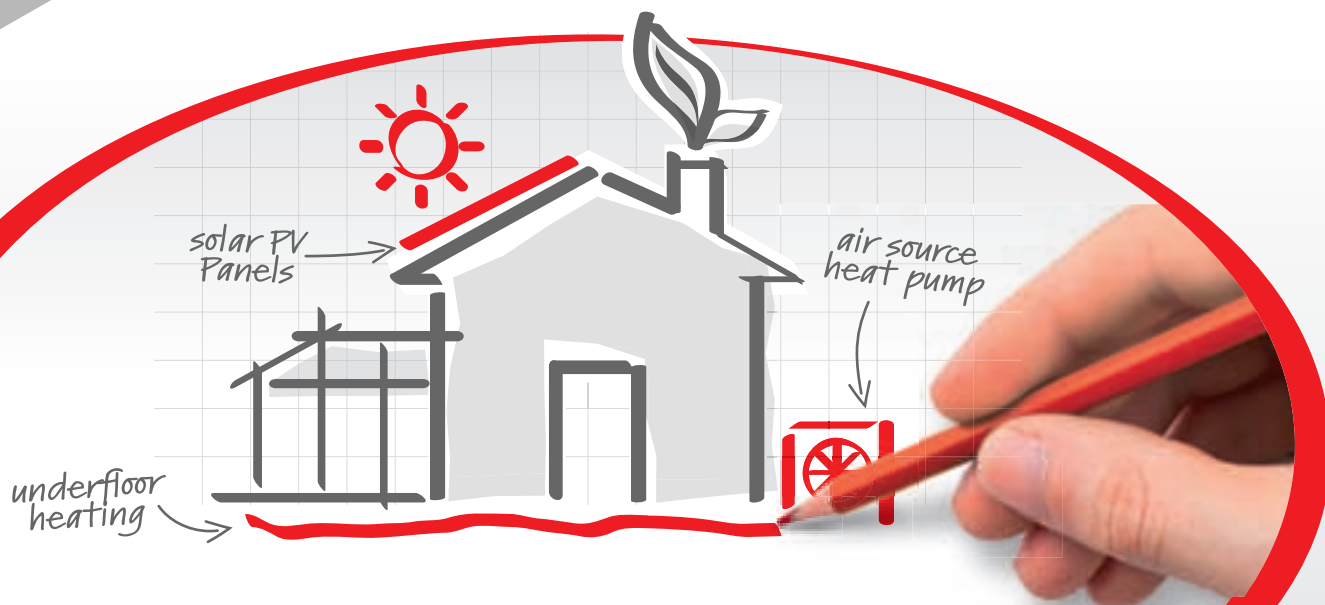
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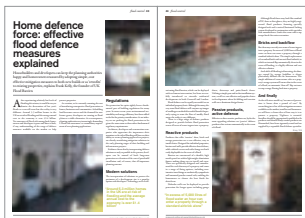
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Wasserhaus  
© BrightSpace Architects  
Finalist in the Sunday Times  
British Homes Awards 2014  
EcoHaus Design  
Competition



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## Editor's letter



David Mote,  
editor of  
Housebuilder  
& Developer

We went to print just before the party manifestos were launched, but what has become obvious in the pre election policy promise punch ups was that housing remains high on the two main political players' wish lists. They just can't quite agree how to bring home building up to the speed needed to create the new communities the country needs.

The Tory team did throw one more housing initiative into the ring as part of their last Budget. The 'Help to Buy ISA' is a great idea and one I advocated way back in the days when I worked for the then Woolwich Building Society's housing subsidiary. It's the prefect birthday present for the young person who has everything – except a home of their own.

One last subject also raised by Brandon Lewis before he cleared his desk was the question of how to improve the new homes industry's image? A good question, and top marks to the HBF who have actually worked out just what housing contributes to the UK economy. 'Building Communities, Growing the Economy' is an essential read.

I'll see you on the other side of the election.

## HELP TO BUY

# Help to Buy: ISA – a bonus for new build savers

With the number of existing government initiatives designed to encourage both new homes buyers to get into the market and housebuilders to build more homes the industry was probably not expecting much from the Chancellor's last budget. However, he did unveil one new initiative to encourage potential purchasers to save for their first home.

The Help to Buy: ISA will be available through banks and building societies. First-time buyers that choose to save through a Help to Buy: ISA will receive a government bonus to help them take the first step on the housing ladder. The bonus will represent 25 per cent of the amount saved so, for the maximum monthly saving of £200, the government will contribute £50, with a maximum government contribution of £3,000 on £12,000 of savings.

Accounts are available for every individual aged 16+, rather than being limited to one per home. This means couples living together can both receive a bonus. The bonus will be paid upon a home purchase of up to £450,000 in London and up to £250,000 outside London.

The bonus will be calculated and paid when property purchasers buy their first home. For basic rate taxpayers, this will be equivalent to saving completely free of tax for their first home.

In his budget address the Chancellor explained: "The government is committed to supporting people who aspire to become homeowners. Recognising that increased deposit requirements had left many hard-working households unable to get onto the housing ladder, the government took decisive action by introducing the Help to Buy scheme in 2013. The two elements of Help to Buy have so far supported 83,000 people realise their dream of home ownership.

"Today the government is announcing a further expansion of the Help to Buy scheme. This expansion recognises that, despite the high loan to value mortgage market working well due to the success of Help to Buy, many first-time buyers are still struggling to save enough to put down a deposit for their first home.

"This situation has been exacerbated by the low returns that savers have experienced since the onset of the financial crisis. The government recognises that many people are working hard and saving hard to get onto the housing ladder. Therefore, we are announcing, in today's Budget, the introduction of the Help to Buy: ISA."

Any parents out there thinking of what to give their children this Christmas or for their birthday might find this savings plan a great present and way of encouraging young people to save – and eventually move out into their own home?

# Turning plans into new build properties

Figures released by the HBF and Glenigan's latest Housing Pipeline report show that over 195,000 new homes were granted in principle planning permission in England in 2014. This is up 12 per cent on the previous year and 39 per cent on 2012. The number of permissions for private homes was up 23 per cent.

These homes, having passed through the remainder of the planning process, could be completed over the next 2-3 years.

Over the past 18 months, house building activity has increased significantly, with figures released last month showing the number of new homes started in 2014 up 36 per cent on 2012. As demand, driven by improved purchaser confidence continues to increase existing sites are being completed faster and builders want to start work on new sites as quickly as possible.

However, the desire to build more properties can only be translated into desperately needed new homes if local authority planning departments have the capacity to process permissions to

the stage where homes can actually be built. Unfortunately, many sites are 'stuck' in the planning system, with an estimated 150,000 plots at 'outline permission' stage, still awaiting full sign off by local authorities.

New government initiatives to introduce 'deemed discharge' of conditions will greatly assist in making sure the planning system is not a constraint on increased housing provision but as homebuilders continue to employ local government planners the resourcing of council planning departments is a real concern.

Speeding up the rate at which permissions are granted is one of the ways to ensure a significant, sustainable increase in housing supply. Local Authorities must be supported and resourced sufficiently to be able to sustain the increase in the rate of planning permissions being granted.

Figures in the latest HBF Glenigan report show that more permissions were granted in 2014 than in any year since 2008. It also shows that the number of sites receiving permission

continues to trend upwards. Getting more sites operational is absolutely key to a sustained increase in actual build numbers as more sites, means more construction work and sales outlets.

Speaking about the report findings and potential Local Authority planning blockages HBF Executive Chairman, Stewart Baseley said: "Over the past 18 months, demand for new homes, largely driven by the Help to Buy equity loan scheme has increased markedly. Housebuilders have responded by significantly increasing house-building activity.

"We are still only building around half the number of new homes the country needs. Getting the required number of permissions, in a timely manner, is absolutely key to the industry's ability to deliver. In addition more needs to be done to speed up the plots that are awaiting final approval to allow construction to commence.

"These figures are a barometer on potential future build rates. But to turn them into actual construction sites requires Local Authorities to process them in a timely fashion to the stage when builders can build.

"If we are to meet housing demand it is imperative that the planning system continues to evolve such that it delivers planning permissions at the rate required to address our housing crisis.

"Increasing housing delivery will provide the high quality homes our next generation needs, support thousands of companies up and down the land and create tens of thousands of jobs."

## PUBLIC SECTOR LAND



Eric Pickles

# Amount of land sold by government departments surpasses original commitment

It has been announced that enough unused public sector land has been released to build over 103,000 new homes.

The amount of land sold by government departments surpasses the original commitment set by David Cameron, and is expected to increase.

Councils and developers have now been called on to help turn this 'new' land into housing as soon as possible. Local authorities are also being urged to follow government departments' example and sell their redundant sites and buildings.

Explaining how this initiative is to work Eric Pickles said: "Housebuilding is at the heart of the government's long-term economic plan. That's why, rather than leaving surplus public sector land idle, we are putting it to good use by releasing it to build new homes

across the country.

"This is part of wider efforts that have got Britain building again, leading to the delivery of 700,000 new homes since the end of 2009. I now want to see councils following Whitehall's example and explore what they can do to release land and deliver new homes and savings for local taxpayers."

The amount of land sold by the government departments surpasses the original commitment set in June 2011 and there are plans to release land with capacity for 150,000 homes between 2015 and 2020.

The land released to date comprises of 899 sites across England, and includes:

- Ministry of Defence – enough land for 38,661 homes, released ahead of schedule
- Homes and Communities Agency – enough

land for 18,307 homes

- Department of Health and NHS – enough land for 13,039 homes
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – enough land for 11,675 homes
- London Legacy Development Corporation – enough land for 6,321 homes
- Department for Transport – enough land for 4,653 homes
- Public Corporations, such as Crown Estates – enough land for 4,113 homes
- Greater London Authority – enough land for 2,652 homes
- Ministry of Justice – enough land for 1,804 homes
- Other smaller departments – enough land for 1,967 homes

## EDITOR'S COMMENT



## Revealing the 'hidden' social and economic benefits of home building

A legend tells of a senior housing executive who was about to retire in the late 1990s and paid one last visit to the government Minister responsible housing. He asked the Minister why, given all the indisputable evidence he presented about the long-term dangers of not building enough new homes, the Government refused to support the housing sector. To his surprise the Minister replied that the Government understood the danger but that it would be political suicide to be seen to support an industry with such a bad image.

The rest is history. Some homebuilders embraced the environmental agenda and the HBF started working with the Treasury to establish the economic disadvantages of not creating the new communities the country needed. In those days I was responsible for the New Homes Marketing Board (NHMB) and we had been 'banging on' about image for years and were suddenly on message. The NHMB had already started a research project, which involved most HBF members with the aim of proving that homebuilders are really the good guys and in fact form the country's economic corner stone.

Unfortunately, before the report was published my department was closed and I left the HBF. But the findings were fantastic. Just two areas identified that the housing sector landscaped more public space than any other industry and that the only organisation planting more trees than homebuilders was the Forestry Commission.

However, the image issue continued to act as a milestone and only now are new homes recognised as key to the country's continued economic growth.

The positive industry messages never went away – the industry just failed to take advantage of them. Until now that is.

The HBF has just released a report that reveals the full extent of the contribution the house building industry makes to the UK's economy and local communities. It also provides a robust estimate of an industry with an economic footprint worth £19.2 billion per year to the UK economy, is responsible for the employment of more than 600,000 workers and is generating

£1.4 billion in tax revenues for the Exchequer – as well as the creating new communities of desperately needed new homes;

The report identifies that the housebuilding industry also:

- Spends £5.5 billion with suppliers, 90 per cent of which stays in the UK
- Provides 32,000 affordable homes – worth £2.3 billion – built or financed by private house building with a further £1 billion paid to local authorities as a contribution to more affordable housing
- Pays £576 million towards community facilities including;
- £225 million towards education facilities alone – enough to fund 52,000 classroom places;
- £131 million in open spaces and community and sports facilities; and
- Generates a £3.8 billion spend in local shops and services

Other benefits also include:

- Planting an estimated 6.5 million trees and shrubs
  - Recycling of around 80 per cent of its waste
- The homebuilding industry is now urging all parties to prioritise policies that would allow more homes to be built, and in doing so, give the country a real economic boost. Whilst output is increasing, the industry is still only delivering around half the estimated 240,000 homes a year the country needs to build. The HBF report goes on to suggest that if another 100,000 homes a year were built this would also generate:

- 430,000 extra jobs
- A further £11.9 billion in economic output
- More than 20,000 affordable homes
- £2.7 billion for additional community benefits, including affordable homes, education, health and open spaces

At their recent Policy Conference HBF Executive Chairman, Stewart Baseley said: "Housebuilding makes a huge largely hidden social and economic contribution to the UK. While housing output has increased, we are still not delivering anywhere near what is needed. As well as delivering desperately needed new homes, increasing housing supply would deliver signifi-



cant additional benefits. House building is a huge employer both directly and through supplier companies.

"As well as providing desperately needed new homes, increasing house building would deliver massive additional benefits to communities across the land. People often don't realise that the new community centre or school or football pitch has been paid for as a direct results of new homes. Providing new homes for people also means better facilities for the wider community. These are the very things that turn a collection of houses into communities; brand new places where people want to live."

At the same conference the then Housing and Planning Minister Brandon Lewis also encouraged homebuilders to improve their image. This will be essential if existing communities are going to embrace large new communities planned for their 'back yard'.

So – the facts are now available but how does the industry plan to dislodge the bad news housing perceptions held as truth by the great British public?

It is a shame that at a time when housing sector image is once again recognised as playing an essential part in the placing homebuilding on the pedestal it should occupy the New Homes Marketing Board is nowhere to be seen.

### News Bytes

Visit [www.hbdonline.co.uk](http://www.hbdonline.co.uk) and enter the reference number for more information

Starter homes designed to stand the test of time...

Ref: 65174

The Rise in Newcastle is up for top planning award...

Ref: 73245

London Square completes on £25 million Hayes deal...

Ref: 73192

New agreement means thousands of new homes in Leicestershire...

Ref: 11319

# Get more girls into housebuilding

According to a report by the NHBC Foundation only one in 10 girls and young women are interested in a career in building and construction.

The report 'A career of choice: attracting talented young people into housebuilding' revealed that 11 per cent of the young women NHBC surveyed expressed an interest in working within the sector, the lowest level of interest of any other job sector included in the report. This compares with 37 per cent of boys and young men.

The survey also suggests that the industry needs to challenge misconceptions held about the sector

if it is to attract young people to work within it. NHBC said that when asked about housebuilding, young people could name trade jobs such as bricklaying and plumbing, but apart from architecture, they were mostly unable to identify any other home building professional careers.

More than a quarter of young people cited the poor image of housebuilding as a barrier to entry. However, when given positive, factual information about the sector, many said they were more likely to consider it as a career.

The report made a number of recommendations for the industry, including the promotion of

the various careers possible within housebuilding and countering views that housebuilding could be a 'dead end' career choice. It also suggested that the industry should be encouraging the development of a 'new positive narrative' on the wider benefits of housebuilding.

NHBC CEO, Mike Quinton said: "Housebuilding provides exciting, varied and rewarding careers. We want to see more young people, including girls, actively considering a career in our industry to ensure we have a strong and balanced workforce to build the homes our country so desperately needs."

## RECRUITMENT

# Recruitment is the key to defusing construction 'time bomb'

By the end of 2014, construction industry output had grown 7.4 per cent on 2013 and was worth around £121.3 billion in the UK. However, industry commentators are concerned that due to slow recruitment the construction industry may not be able to keep up with growing demand in 2015.

The biggest contributing factor to the recent construction boom was new housing, which was

up by 23 per cent and has created a 100,000 surge in jobs over the past two years.

However, the encouragement by the government to build new homes and the proposed London Paramount resort in North Kent could see the construction industry fighting for a skilled workforce.

Discussing the potentially stretched workforce issue Federation of Master Builders Chief

Executive, Brian Berry said: "The skills time bomb has arisen for a number of reasons. Around 400,000 construction workers left the industry since the downturn hit in 2007 and many will never return. If you combine this with an increase in workloads as the economy recovers, all the signs point to the skills shortage getting worse before it gets better."

## LABOUR



Emma Reynolds

# Labour uses TCPA Lecture to outline post election housing plans

Labour's Shadow Housing Minister, Emma Reynolds, used the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) Annual Sir Frederic Osborn Lecture to warn that five more years of a Conservative led or coalition government will see the housing crisis grow day after day. She also outlined the plan for the next Labour government to recapture the post-war spirit of building new homes.

In her presentation she stated that another five years of David Cameron, based on current trends, would lead to:

- Home ownership levels falling to their lowest levels for 40 years with more than two in five people expected to rent
- Only one in five people under the age of 35 owning their own home, half of those who did so in 2010

She then outlined Labour's plan to tackle the housing crisis, which included:

- Making tackling the housing crisis a national priority
- Giving local communities stronger powers to build the homes needed in the places people want to live
- Giving first-time buyers priority access rights in new 'Housing Growth Areas'
- Creating a major new role for local government in commissioning and delivering housing developments
- Building more affordable homes
- Increasing competition in the housing market and boost small builders; and
- Building a new generation of New Towns and Garden Cities

Explaining Labour's housing strategy Emma

Reynolds said: "Labour has developed the first comprehensive plan for a generation to tackle the housing crisis. A Labour government will get at least 200,000 homes built a year by 2020 but we won't stop there.

"The next Labour government will recapture the post-war spirit for building new homes and match that renewed ambition with a drive to build high quality homes and great places for new communities.

"Under Labour's plan, local government will take a major new role in assembling land, delivering infrastructure and commissioning housing development. But to succeed, it will be a partnership with the private sector, attracting private investment and commissioning private developers to build the homes we need."



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# Barratt scoops National Urban Design Award

Trumpington Meadows, the Barratt Homes Eastern Counties development in Cambridge, was one of the schemes showcased when Barratt Southern Region won Developer of the Year at the National Urban Design Awards.

Trumpington Meadows (pictured below) is an ongoing development, which will be a community of over 1,000 homes when complete. Steeple View, the current building phase at Trumpington Meadows, consists of a variety of three, four and five-bedroom homes.

Barratt Southern Regional Managing Director for Development, Gary Ennis said: "This is a fantastic achievement for Barratt Developments and our dedicated team of in-house technical experts. Wherever we build new homes we are entirely committed to delivering the highest quality and most appropriate scheme for the location we build in. We are very proud of all of our developments and the three that we highlighted as part of the award submission all demonstrate different attributes, reflecting our ability to create unique and design-led housing projects where people

aspire to call home."

The expert judging panel acknowledged the commitment that Barratt has made to excellent design through the creation of its own 'Great Places' guideline. This aligns directly with the principles of Building For Life 12, the industry standard for the design of new housing developments. The in-house guide also incorporates customer feedback, highlighting preferences to various design features such as particular door types or landscaping. To ensure the company meets its own standards, Barratt also runs an internal award scheme, celebrating the design successes of its numerous developments across the country.

Gary Ennis explained: "Great Places is all about excellent design. This unique initiative allows us to share best practice throughout the company and requires us to assess all of our own schemes to ensure that the physical reality matches our concept. To have this hard work recognised at this national level is very rewarding."

Vice-Chair of the Urban Design Group Awards, Noha Nasser said: "It's great to see such a clear commitment to Urban Design from Barratt Southern Region who have made real progress as a result of the work they have put into their own design guide. It's vital that large house-builders understand the need for good design on the developments they build and the legacies they are creating - Barratt Southern are leading by example in this respect."



NHBC

## Private registrations continue rise

Recent NHBC statistics show that the private sector achieved registrations of 28,139 from December 2014 to February 2015, which was a 32 per cent increase compared to the same period last year.

During the rolling quarter, 36,505 new homes were registered in total, a 23 per cent lift on the same quarter last year. Public sector registrations struggled up by 1 per cent to 8,366 new homes.

Total registrations for February showed a 25 per cent improvement against February 2014, at 11,734 (9,209 private sector; 2,525 public). However, the NHBC did note that in 2014 February was the year's 'poorest month' for new home registrations.

Commenting on the figures NHBC CEO, Mike Quinton said: "We are very pleased that the growth we saw throughout last year has contin-

ued into 2015, with our latest figures clearly showing that registrations are up on 2014 levels for the last three months, which is great news for the industry.

"However, we have been clear that we are building way below the level of homes that our country so desperately needs, therefore it is important that we keep up this momentum."

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## EVENTS

**CIH Annual London Conference**

28 - 29 April, London  
[www.cih.org/eventsfinder](http://www.cih.org/eventsfinder)

**RESI Awards**

13 May, London  
[www.resiawards.com](http://www.resiawards.com)

**May Design Series: Furniture, KBB,  
 Lighting, Decor, DX**  
 17 - 19 May, London  
[www.maydesignseries.com](http://www.maydesignseries.com)

**Plantworx**

2 - 4 June, Leicestershire  
[www.plantworx.co.uk](http://www.plantworx.co.uk)

**Eco Technology Show**

11 - 12 June, Brighton  
[www.ecotechnologyshow.co.uk](http://www.ecotechnologyshow.co.uk)

**London Build**

18 - 19 June, London  
[www.londonbuildexpo.com](http://www.londonbuildexpo.com)

**CIH Conference & Exhibition**

23 - 25 June, Manchester  
[www.cihhousing.com](http://www.cihhousing.com)

**National Housing Awards**

10 September, London  
[www.nationalhousingawards.co.uk](http://www.nationalhousingawards.co.uk)

**RESI Conference**

17 - 18 September, Newport  
[www.resievent.com](http://www.resievent.com)

**100% Design**

23 - 26 September, London  
[www.100percent.co.uk](http://www.100percent.co.uk)

**London Homebuilding & Renovating  
 and Home Improvement Show**

25 - 27 September, London  
[www.homebuildingshow.co.uk](http://www.homebuildingshow.co.uk)

**The Build Show**

6 - 8 October, Birmingham  
[www.buildshow.co.uk](http://www.buildshow.co.uk)

**UK Construction Week**

6 - 11 October, Birmingham  
[www.ukconstructionweek.com](http://www.ukconstructionweek.com)

**24housing Awards**

8 October, Coventry  
[www.24housingawards.co.uk](http://www.24housingawards.co.uk)

**British Homes Awards**

16 October, London  
[www.britishhomesawards.co.uk](http://www.britishhomesawards.co.uk)

**Women in Housing Awards**

22 October, Manchester  
[www.womeninhousingawards.co.uk](http://www.womeninhousingawards.co.uk)

**Greenbuild EXPO**

10 - 11 November, Manchester  
[www.greenbuildexpo.co.uk](http://www.greenbuildexpo.co.uk)

**Homes**

18 - 19 November, London  
[www.homesevent.co.uk](http://www.homesevent.co.uk)

## CIH Annual London Conference

### 28 - 29 April

The CIH Annual London Conference is designed to bring London's housing professionals together. It gives those working in the industry an opportunity to discuss current issues and the challenges the housing industry is facing while exchanging thoughts and ideas on how to tackle these obstacles.

There is a range of speakers lined up to cover a

variety of topics, share their experiences, offer potential solutions and explore new ways of working. There will also be a choice of workshops to attend.

Attendees also have the opportunity to promote their services or products over the two-day event. For more information on this and to book a place, visit: [www.cih.org/eventsfinder](http://www.cih.org/eventsfinder)

## National Housing Awards

### 15 May (Early Bird Entries closing)

The National Housing Awards is now calling for 2015 entries. The awards celebrate the best in affordable home ownership providers. The awards are presented at a ceremony in London on 10 September.

The awards are split into 11 categories, plus an overall Provider of the Year, which is chosen by the judges from all the entries across all 11 categories.

One of the awards available is for Best Large Development, won in 2014 by Sovereign Living. 'Large' is defined as a development consisting of at least 30 houses, and the development must have additional facilities that benefit the local community. The scheme can be comprised of either standalone ownership homes or mixed tenure dwellings.

Another award will go to the Most Innovative/

Specialist Solution. This is awarded to a development that has made a 'stand-out difference' to lives by providing something more to a community, such as developing homes for older people or those with disabilities or learning difficulties. In 2014, this was jointly awarded to Viridian Housing; Housing People, Building Communities and Sanctuary Group.

The final deadline for entries is 5pm on 15 June. However, National Housing Awards also accept 'Early Bird Entries'. These carry the advantage of a reduced entry fee and must be submitted by 15 May.

For more information on all the categories, how to enter, rules of entry and tips on making a winning submission, visit:

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

## May Design Series

### 17 - 19 May

May Design Series is returning to London for its third edition in 2015. This year, the event is 'Curated for Business' and will present more international exhibitors and showcase the best of new British design. The event will run from 17 - 19 May at the ExCeL Centre.

A new feature this year will be a complimentary CPD-accredited seminar and conference programme featuring different high profile keynote speakers each day. The sessions will explore and debate the future impact of such issues as changing demographics, latest technologies and advanced materials with a focus on attracting and keeping customers and clients across all sectors of design.

The show also offers numerous opportunities to network with fellow professionals and presents an array of products for every interior space across five sectors: Furniture; Lighting; Decor; DX and Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms (for more information on the KBB section go to page 34).

The show also aims to showcase new talent through partnerships with universities, giving students the chance to exhibit their work.

For more information on the event, including a full list of exhibitors, a details on all conferences and seminars and information on registering as a visitor, please visit:

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

# Green building – see the real incentives at The Eco Technology Show



Despite an emphasis on energy efficiency in building being legislated for through the Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) and new Building Regulations to encourage eco technology, the grants situation is constantly changing and confusing for smaller developers and self-builders. Internet searches can leave you more confused than when you started about which technologies attract funding and which will deliver the best returns by adding value to a development.

The Energy Saving Trust ([www.est.org.uk](http://www.est.org.uk)) is an excellent first port of call online, but a visit to the completely-free Eco Technology Show in Brighton on 11 - 12 June will take you to the next level with hundreds of products on display, and where you can get an inside track on trends and the regulatory environment. There are also five meeting rooms and a communications hub with free advice from experts.

As well as advanced and leading-edge heating and control technologies, this year's Show will also showcase a new Innovation Zone. It will demonstrate the newest low carbon and

environmental products and solutions that can help developers add value to their properties; all important at a time when buyers are increasingly energy and resource efficiency conscious. Examples of these brand new ideas is the Waterblade adaptor which will drastically reduce the water flow through taps, flexible solar panels and a robot for insulating hard-to-reach areas.

Using and reusing expensive resources efficiently is a subject close to any developer's heart and is another key theme of the Eco Technology Show. Andy Lewry, Principal Consultant at the Sustainable Energy Team, BRE, will discuss the latest solutions for energy management during the build process.

Eco Technology Show Director Nicola Gunstone says: "Energy prices will only get higher, so buyers' interest in energy efficiency and eco technology is at an all time high. The Show will give builders a head start on the new ideas they can incorporate into their plans."

The Show's seminar sessions will once again include informative sessions for builders and installers, and the event will provide an

opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with other developers. Both Show and seminars are completely free to attend.



Register for fast track entry at [www.ecotechnologyshow.co.uk](http://www.ecotechnologyshow.co.uk) Enq. 102

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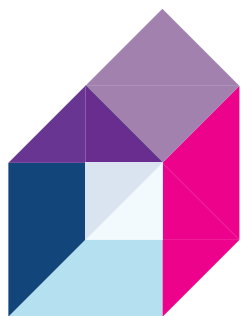
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Enq. 103

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## APPRENTICESHIPS

# Redrow's national apprenticeship week recruitment drive

**F**ifty young people are being given the opportunity to forge a career with one of the country's largest housebuilders.

Redrow Homes launched its annual apprentice recruitment drive at the start of last month's National Apprenticeship Week.

Redrow already ranks in The City & Guilds top 100 apprentice employers in England, as well as the 2014 Building Good Employer Guide, both for the second consecutive year.

Announcing that it took on 50 new trade apprentices also coincided with the National Apprenticeship Service's (NAS) '100 Reasons Why' campaign, which aims to highlight the importance of apprenticeships and why companies employ young trainees.

Redrow's HR Director, Karen Jones said: "We've made a further commitment this year to take on another 50 trade apprentices. We already have more than 100 bricklaying, carpentry and joinery and plumbing apprentices working for us plus dozens of office based, commercial and technical apprentices.

"We're also right behind NAS's '100 reasons why' campaign. There are so many great reasons to employ apprentices. Not only are they essential to ensure a skilled workforce for the future and an integral part of our

**Award-winning apprentice bricklayer Liam Sargeant is one of Redrow's reigning 'apprentices of the year'**



sustainability agenda, they also bring fresh ideas, energy and enthusiasm to our workforce and increase business productivity."

With both trade and office-based apprenticeship schemes across its building sites, head office and 11 divisional headquarters in England and Wales, Redrow's programmes combine paid on

the job training with the opportunity to gain a recognised qualification, usually by attending college one day per week to gain an NVQ.

Redrow also runs apprentice programmes for administration, design, technical and commercial roles and has a great track record of promoting apprentices to more senior positions.

## HOMEOWNERS

# Homeowner satisfaction levels still high

**T**he latest National New Home Customer Satisfaction Survey has revealed that more than 86 per cent of homebuyers are happy with the overall quality of their new home.

The annual survey, launched in 2005 in response to the Barker Review of Housing Supply, also showed that the same percentage of people would recommend their builder to a friend. This is slightly down on last year, when 90 per cent of housebuyers said they would recommend their builder.

Sixteen housebuilders were awarded five stars – the highest achievable accolade in the survey. Hill, Kier Living and Lioncourt Homes became five star housebuilders for the first time.

McCarthy & Stone was also awarded a special trophy for being a five star housebuilder for the past ten years.

The following 16 housebuilders achieved a five star customer satisfaction rating:

- Barratt Developments
- CALA Homes
- Cavanna Homes
- Croudace Homes
- Davidsons Developments
- Hill
- Kier Living
- Lioncourt Homes
- Mactaggart & Mickel Homes
- McCarthy & Stone
- Miller Homes
- Pegasus Retirement Homes
- Redrow Homes
- Russell Armer Homes
- Stewart Milne
- Story Homes

## News Bytes

Visit [www.hbdonline.co.uk](http://www.hbdonline.co.uk) and enter the reference number for more information

Oldham eco scheme tackling fuel poverty should be adopted nationwide...

**Ref: 48955**

Historic Scotland announces £6.4 million investment to regenerate Scottish towns...

**Ref: 42921**

Encouraging sub-letting and short-term rentals will drive down standards...

**Ref: 72251**

Government puts life into Nantwich site...

**Ref: 81177**

Theis + Khan designs housing development in Watford...

**Ref: 66338**

Masterplan reaches major milestone...

**Ref: 71080**

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## Crest Nicholson celebrates apprenticeship programme with on-site training day

The Apprentice Day also coincided with the launch of the Crest Nicholson Site Management Academy – a training programme designed to bring up to 12 new Trainee Site Managers into the business each year and create future Site Managers, Build Managers and Production Directors.

Over the course of the day the apprentices had the opportunity to work and learn across the five distinct disciplines of bricklayer, carpenter, electrician, dryliner & decorator, and plumber – each led by a mentor sharing their skills and demonstrating best practice examples.

One of the apprentices attending on the day was 20-year old decorator Maisie Lapham (pictured), who is normally based at Crest Nicholson's Dockside development in the South West region.

Maisie said: "I've been part of the Crest Nicholson Apprentice Programme for coming up to three years now, and it's been a fantastic learning experience. One of the major benefits has been the opportunity for creative, hands-on learning and I've really enjoyed working for a company with such high standards and quality of work. There are lots of opportunities to move up the ladder, with all the help and training to support us. It's been great to have the chance to learn

about all the different disciplines and see how various techniques and skills can be put into practice to create a new home."

Stephen Stone added: "The best way to address the current skills shortage is to ensure that we build-up the industry through a new generation of workers. It is essential that we commit to developing jobs and skills at every level, and as a company we firmly advocate helping young people gain the experience and on-the-job knowledge they need. This is the only way that we can guarantee that the industry is properly equipped to move forward, that supply can properly match demand, and that we can continue to innovate and drive best practice standards right across the board."

Crest Nicholson has been running its Apprenticeship Programme for the last five years, whereby each apprentice is offered a fixed-term contract to see them through a programme of training in support of coursework requirements to gain a NVQ Level 2 and sometimes Level 3 qualification. Continuous support is offered by the local college, where training is delivered by ConstructionSkills, the Sector Skills Council and Industry Training Board for the construction industry.

Crest Nicholson has hosted a unique training day, bringing all 60 of its current apprentices together at its Sovereign Gate development in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire. The apprentices were joined on site by Crest Nicholson Chief Executive Stephen Stone, who led the event.

Apprentices make up 10 per cent of Crest Nicholson's entire workforce. Investing in their future training and skills by providing practical projects and experience is a key priority for the company, which is committed to continuing its apprenticeship programme over the coming years. The apprenticeship programme has recently expanded to include a new pilot programme to 'Technical Apprentices', recognising the wider career opportunities within the construction sector.

### AWARD

## Site manager chosen as award finalist

Persimmon Homes is celebrating after a site manager was named as a regional finalist in the Local Authority Building Control (LABC)'s annual site managers' awards.

Persimmon Homes Lancashire, which has developments across Lancashire and Cumbria, was delighted when it heard that site manager Richard Graham, who works at Brackenleigh, in Carlisle, had been named as a regional finalist.

The LABC Warranty Regional Site Managers Awards recognise site managers who achieve the highest standards of construction.

Persimmon Homes Lancashire managing director Mark Cook said: "It is fantastic news that Richard has made it through to the regional finals. He was shortlisted after a robust process which has scrutinised his achievements.

"We work hard to get the right staff around us

and it is great when you get confirmation that your staff are amongst the best."

The judging process looks at various aspects including site administration, health and safety, storage of materials, waste control and site tidiness.

Richard, who was born and bred in Carlisle, is no stranger to success having been presented with a prestigious NHBC Pride in the Job Quality Award in 2012. He said: "I originally trained as a joiner but was ambitious and worked my way up to site manager, by getting promoted to assistant site manager and learning on the job.

"I take pride in seeing a house built from scratch. It is a real achievement, especially when you see the customer move in. I still get a buzz from being part of their dream home. I have a great team working in the site and it is great



to be recognised."

Mark added: "What sets a winning site manager apart is the fact that they will go that extra mile to achieve quality and are thorough in their workmanship. We wish Richard the best of luck in the regional finals in June."

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## Forrest hands over Queens Court development

**S**ocial housing contractor Forrest has delivered the final apartment on its new-build residential development project, Queens Court, in Widnes, and is now ready for residents to move in.

The 17 one and two-bed apartments were

designed by local architect Denovo Design and constructed by Forrest following its appointment to the project by Halton Housing Trust.

The design objective was one of 'health and wellbeing', keeping residents healthy and happy via distinctive colourful louvres and

encouraging social interaction via the communal landscaping area.

The scheme sits on the original site of the historic Queens Hall where some of the world's most famous musicians once played, including The Beatles and Stone Roses. The hall closed its doors in 2004 and was demolished in 2012.

Neil Ashworth, head of new build at Forrest said: "The development has seen us regenerate the entire Queens Hall site with new affordable homes built to a high specification of sustainability and energy saving standards. With limited availability of social housing in the North West, including Widnes, Queens Court will bring much needed homes onto the market."

### SURVEY

## Public support action to address housing shortage by advertising new homes in UK first

**W**ith an election looming on the horizon, YouGov's 2015 Homeowner Survey, sponsored by BLP Insurance, myhomemove and Trustmark, asked the UK public which of the major housing policies touted by political parties they support.

The survey shows support for advertising new homes in the UK before they are marketed abroad. Such policies are much more popular than introducing a new annual property tax or "mansion tax", raising the threshold of inheritance tax, or ending right to buy.

The public wants fairness in the property market. The survey found that the overwhelmingly most popular policy would be a requirement for developers to market homes in the UK before marketing them overseas. This is a policy put forward for Londoners by Boris Johnson, with 80 per cent of adults supporting it and only 3 per cent opposed. This means that the most sup-

ported housing policy amongst UK adults is not being offered nationally by any of the main political parties in the upcoming election.

The second most popular housing policy, proposed by Labour, is charging higher council tax rates on homes that are not occupied year round, with 70 per cent supporting it, and only 13 per cent opposed.

There is support for increasing tax on homes worth over £2 million, but the preferred option is introducing a new higher rate council tax band (supported by 68 per cent and proposed by the Liberal Democrats), rather than a new annual tax, or so-called 'mansion tax' (supported by 60 per cent and proposed by Labour).

Government initiatives to help first-time buyers tend to be popular, such as extending the Help to Buy 5 per cent deposit scheme (supported by 65 per cent) and the Starter Home Initiative (supported by 61 per cent). This

suggests that the recent Help to Buy: ISA could also prove to be popular.

In terms of building more homes, there is little support for building on green belt land, even if it is deemed to have minimal environmental or amenity value. The building of new towns and Garden cities is the preferred option.

Wayne Tonge of BLP Insurance said: "The unwavering popularity of initiatives to help first-time buyers is no surprise and we applaud anything to help give aspiring homeowners a foot on the ladder. However the buck does not stop there and the whole industry needs to get on board to meet this increasing demand for homes."

"We need to make sure that we are building homes to last rather than simply chasing a house building statistic. Opposition to building on green belt land highlights one of the biggest challenges faced by developers today – the shortage of available land."





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# British Homes Awards supports Garden City initiative

The British Homes Awards already have a reputation of having established an effective legacy in pioneering innovative home design and build solutions, while championing the use of exciting new technologies and products.

Continuing in this essential role the award organisers have just announced that, in partnership with H+H UK Ltd, Redrow Homes, BRE and the Architects Journal 'The Sunday Times British Homes Awards 2015', will be supporting the Garden City initiative. The awards will invite submissions for a single stage open design competition for visionary designs for a potential standard house type suitable for planned Garden City developments and constructed with H+H UK's environmentally friendly aircrete building materials.

Architects are challenged to innovate, while ensuring their submission is buildable, replicable, compliant with current building regulations and conforms to NHBC/Premier Guarantee standards.

Organised by The British Homes Awards, all enquiries should be made to the promoter through [www.britishhomesawards.co.uk](http://www.britishhomesawards.co.uk) or for further information on Aircrete visit: [www.hhcelcon.co.uk/british-homes-awards-2015](http://www.hhcelcon.co.uk/british-homes-awards-2015)

It is hoped that the successful design submissions will help form the blueprint for the UK's future housing stock as new neighbourhoods of homes are developed within the planned Garden Cities.

The house design will be evaluated as a prototype house type for new build sites and built by one of the UK's premier and most enlightened homebuilders, Redrow Homes.

Showing his support for the design award initiative, just before the government broke up prior to the national election, the then Minister for Housing and Planning, Brandon Lewis said: "It gives me great pleasure to launch the design brief for 'Homes for Britain' – the 2015 Sunday Times British Home Awards. The competition has a long track record of producing cutting-edge designs of real excellence and innovation across a broad range of categories. This year's competition, which challenges architects and designers to produce a standard house type suitable for Garden City type developments, with a focus on innovative designs which are both buildable and replicable, promises to continue in that vein."

"The quality of design and construction of new homes is of real importance, not just in the context of the Government's housing programmes, but across the housing sector generally.

We want new housing developments which people are attracted to, with well-designed buildings, streetscapes, green and other public spaces, which respond to the character and identity of the local surroundings, establish a strong sense of place, and contribute to creating well-functioning, sustainable communities. We have encouraged this through our National Planning Policy Framework and Practice Guidance, as well as through our housing programmes such as Housing Zones, Estates Regeneration, and our large-scale housing development programme. This week we have also announced a new approach to encouraging well-designed Starter Homes including the setting up of a new Design Advisory Panel to help set the bar on housing design across the country.

"This year's Awards presents an exciting opportunity to respond to this challenge. In the UK we have some of the most innovative and creative architects and designers in the world, and I have no doubt the competition will produce new ideas for homes which are of practical and lasting benefit."



Brandon Lewis

## NHBC FOUNDATION

# New NHBC Foundation report charts the making of the modern home

A new guide which charts the history of the modern home from Victorian times to the digital age has been launched by the NHBC Foundation.

Housing has played a pivotal role in our society and has been at the very top of the political agenda for different reasons at different times over the last century.

'Homes through the decades: the making of modern housing' examines the political and social drivers, and technological changes that have shaped the modern home and the way we live. From the gadgets we use to the way our homes are built, the guide contains evocative images and informative charts which illustrate and define key periods in our housing history.

'Homes through the decades' poses questions

about what our homes might look like in the future – will demographic changes, such as decreasing family sizes and an ageing population lead to new designs of homes? How much further will sustainability targets be pushed in housing design, and will higher levels of automation become the norm? The report notes how people living in modern homes today have greater protection than their predecessors through the introduction of Building Regulations, comprehensive building standards and warranties.

Commenting on the report, Neil Smith, head of research and innovation at NHBC, said: "Since the beginning of the 20th century, Britain has experienced seismic changes in society, politics, technology and culture.

"We are now embarking on a further historically-important step for housing as we seek to establish a generation of new homes suitable for the 21st century. Our thinking should be informed by a clear understanding of what has gone before and an enlightened view of how we should address the challenges of today and tomorrow.

"Homes through the decades' is an account of the drivers, endeavour and experience that over the last century has shaped the modern home. In its pages, we are reminded of the pivotal events and inspirational people – reformers, planners, architects, designers, technologists and construction teams – who grappled with the pressures and constraints of their time to deliver our unique housing heritage."





# Editor's Focus

## RK Door Systems

RK Door Systems specialises in the supply of highly insulated aluminium entrance doors that offer exceptional performance and low maintenance. There is a stunning range of styles from ultra-modern to traditional designs, all of which far exceed current recommended energy efficiency regulations and security requirements, even offering finger scan technology for added peace of mind and convenience. There is a choice of finishes including timber effect planking which unlike wood is guaranteed not to warp, bow or expand and so avoiding costly call backs.

Enq. 105



## Varme

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Enq. 106



## Demon Designs

Demon Designs Architectural Glass is now offering bespoke, flush bonded, double glazed doors to expand on its wide range of products on offer. The doors have glass bonded to a metal frame, providing a complete flush detail, with a minimal 25mm border. They can be incorporated into most door frames, and can be retrofitted into existing timber frames. As the doors are bespoke, Demon Designs can modify the design to suit your exact requirements, providing a stylish, acoustic solution. Contact the company for more information on any of its architectural glass products.

Enq. 107

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Enq. 108



# Industry movers

The latest industry appointments

## STORY HOMES



**F**ast-growing housebuilder Story Homes has appointed a new Head of Land to drive its crucial land acquisition strategy in the North West. Chartered surveyor David O'Reilly, 33, will

particularly focus on the company's growth targets in Lancaster, Ribbles Valley, Fylde, Wyre, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire East and West.

David joined the company after being thoroughly impressed with Story Homes' credentials. He said: "I've been in planning and development with a particular focus on strategic land for around 12 years, and I was familiar with Story Homes because it has an impressive reputation for quality.

"So when I was asked to join the company having met the team, – and having seen some of the existing Story Homes sites, I was even more impressed."

"I really feel I've found a company in the North West that I am proud to say I am part of and that is very important to me" he said.

David's job keeps him on the road throughout the week looking at potential purchase sites for the fast-growing company.

## SLR CONSULTING



**A** leading environmental firm, SLR Consulting, has appointed Jonathan Reynolds as Technical Director for Urban Design & Masterplanning.

Jonathan has over 15 years' experience as a practicing urban designer and masterplanner, and almost 20 years in the promotion of development projects. His areas of expertise include creating a design 'vision' for a site. He has been involved in both greenfield developments and brownfield regeneration.

Jonathan, who is based in SLR's Bristol Office, has promoted over 60,000 new homes. Commenting on his move to SLR, he said: "My aim is to continue to promote residential and mixed-use developments."

## CADOGAN

**C**adogan has announced the appointment of Louisa Woodbridge as Head of Residential Lettings, who joins the business from Grosvenor. Her new role will see her take responsibility for the management of residential leasing strategies for the 93 acre Cadogan Estate in Chelsea.

Louisa will replace Jan Goodridge who is retiring from the role after 23 years.

Louisa has over 14 years' experience in the sale and leasing of residential property in Central West and South West London. She is highly experienced in all aspects of residential, retail and commercial sales and lettings.

## REDROW



**R**edrow is cementing its reputation for developing its staff with the appointment of Jon Chadwick as group learning and development manager.

Jon has worked in learning and

development for over a decade and part of his last role was to set up a training academy. During his career Jon has covered a range of roles within the construction, engineering, rail and materials handling industries.

Jon said: "One of the biggest challenges to the industry is talent. We must encourage quality people into the business and provide them with opportunities to develop so that we have a pipeline of talent for the future. Redrow has a strong culture of personal development and invests in its staff to help them to develop and progress. With the right training today's apprentices could go on to become the managers and leaders of the future."

Part of Jon's role is to introduce new training schemes and innovative ways to deliver them. "We'll be taking a more blended approach to development, utilising different methods of delivery. Everyone has their own learning styles and development needs so we want to develop a range of resources and interventions to suit them," he explains.

Karen Jones, human resources director, says: "With Jon's expertise we will be able to further enhance development opportunities for our employees."

## BARRATT DEVELOPMENTS

**B**arratt Developments plc is pleased to announce the appointment of David Thomas, currently Group Finance Director, as Group Chief Executive effective from 1 July 2015. This follows the decision by Mark Clare to step down after nine years as Group Chief Executive to develop his non-executive career.

The Board made the appointment after conducting a thorough review, supported by external advisers who carried out a benchmarking exercise against the requirements of the role. Careful consideration was given to the leadership skills and experience necessary to ensure the continued development of the Group's strategy and its successful execution.

The recruitment of a new Finance Director is now underway.

Mark will step down as Chief Executive on 1 July 2015 and from the Board at the end of July, however he will remain with the Group until the end of October 2015 to ensure an orderly handover.

David Thomas said: "I am delighted to be stepping up to Chief Executive and look forward to continuing to work with Steven Boyes and our industry leading management team. In the last few years we have been able to deliver considerable improvements in shareholder returns and we have a clear strategy in place to continue our progress."

## MILLER PATTISON



**S**heffield based home insulation specialist Miller Pattison has appointed Mike Dyson as the company's new managing director.

Mike was previously managing director at Miller Pattison for

more than 15 years. During this time he oversaw significant growth in the business from being a small company upon him joining, to achieving revenues in excess of £80m at his departure. He said: "Miller Pattison is a business I know intimately. It has massive growth potential and I am delighted to be taking on the role of managing director once more. We intend to concentrate initially on core activities and ensure that our cost base is fully tailored to our ongoing needs."

# A brand new community for the heritage city of Bath

**B**ath Riverside is a mixed-use community located in the shadow of the UNESCO World Heritage City of Bath. This brand new community compliments Bath's iconic character and architecture, and is already proving its sustainability credentials as a major regeneration development.

The Bath Riverside community will eventually be set across 44 acres of landscaped grounds bordered by the River Avon.

Located on the site of the former Stothert & Pitt crane manufacturing plant, Bath Riverside has planning consent for up to 2,281 new homes of which at least 25 per cent will be affordable. These are being delivered in partnership with housing provider CURO, Bath & North East Somerset Council and the Homes and Communities Agency.

Crest Nicholson purchased the site in 2006 and, following an extensive consultation, began work on a masterplan for phase one (299 homes) in 2007. In December 2010 the Outline Planning Application and Detailed Planning Applications were both approved and the first properties were built and occupied at the end of 2011.

## Overcoming challenges

To build Bath Riverside Crest had to overcome both the financial challenges of the economic downturn and the sensitive historic context of Bath's architecture and UNESCO World Heritage City status.

Creating a new community over almost two decades, only a short walk from Bath's iconic and World Heritage protected architecture, the development's design had to respect and complement, but not imitate, the City's historic buildings.

Many of the new buildings have been clad using locally sourced Bath Stone and Crest has already used more than 400 tons of stone from the local Limpley Stoke quarry. The soft opal stone helps Bath Riverside's homes complement Bath's iconic architecture, while creating contemporary, new neighbourhoods.



## Sustainable Development Strategy

Crest Nicholson also consulted with local stakeholders to create the Bath Riverside Sustainable Development Strategy. The Strategy will ensure this exemplar community is built with embedded sustainability measures that will make it easy for the residents to adopt sustainable lifestyle choices.

Each of the residences is powered by an onsite energy centre, providing electricity for more than 1,000 homes, and heated by centrally located boilers. These features met Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4, and they are expected to reduce carbon emissions across the site by around 45 – 50 per cent.

The centralised plant will consist of a mix of gas-combined heat and power (CHP), biomass boilers (with biomass used in place of bio diesel due to concerns regarding transparency of sustainable sourcing), and gas boilers for periods of peak heating demand. These together meet both the 10 per cent renewable energy requirement, and the mandatory carbon reduction required to ultimately achieve CfSH Level 3.

The CHP communal heating system was selected to provide energy efficiency and on-site energy generation and should provide residents with some protection against future energy price rises.

Code for Sustainable Homes (CfSH) Level 4 was achieved as a minimum standard on all homes completed after 1 January 2013. Also, all homes achieve an average Energy Performance Certificate rating B.

In order to achieve the target CfSH rating all homes are built to exceed Building Regulations 2010 part L requirements.

However, Crest recognises that to help encourage residents to recycle, reuse and reduce household waste they must be provided with ways

to easily achieve this essential environmental objective. All Bath Riverside homes are therefore, provided with waste separation bins to encourage the separation and storage of metal, paper, card, plastics and compost.

## Water management

The position of Bath Riverside demands a strategy to protect homes from possible flooding. As a result the flood mitigation measures have been designed to allow for increased (+30 per cent) flood risk associated with climate change.

In addition, recognising the need to save water all homes are installed with appliances selected to reduce water usage and houses are equipped with individual water butts.

To help reduce rain-water run-off by at least 20 per cent, porous paving has been introduced throughout the development, supported by water features and underground attenuation incorporated into the landscaping strategy as Sustainable Urban Drainage measures.

## Bringing life back to the Riverside

Designed to benefit both the existing and new communities Bath Riverside has also opened up a pedestrian walkway along the River Avon that has not been publically accessible for decades. The new public, landscaped riverfront and unique waterside 'scoop', a tiered public amphitheatre, allows residents and the wider community in Bath to enjoy the river while also forming part of the sustainable flood management strategy for the site.

As part of its commitment to bring the riverside back to life and open it up to local people, Crest Nicholson has also commissioned a public





art strategy with the majority of the art features designed by nearby schools, Bath College and local artists. With stone carvings, bronzes and historically significant artifacts, Bath Riverside has a public art trail that includes ships, slow worms and even a centurion's helmet.

The scheme also displays art window friezes in the common areas designed by a local artist which when lit can be seen by both the residents and those visiting the development in the evenings.

The carefully designed private square is located on a raised car park deck and includes sensory and productive planting. The garden is completed with topiary bushes sculptured into the shape of cranes, gooseberry and strawberry bushes as well as pear trees and herb gardens to create a unique communal area for all owners. Homeowners with direct access to the square are encouraged to pick fruit from the trees and forage for strawberries along the edible walkway.

## Biodiversity

To support and enhance Bath Riverside's local biodiversity an ecological baseline was established by identifying the area's valued and sensitive ecological resources. A desk study consultation included the proposed development site and the surrounding 2km area.

As a result of the study, action has been taken

to replace lost brownfield habitat by means of brown and partial green roofs, which will include more than 20 different native species grown from seeds collected from the site in 2001.

Habitat pallets were built, planted with plugs or seedlings and left in-situ within the remaining brownfield habitats to be colonised by invertebrates. The pallets were then temporarily moved to a secure area of the site when the brownfield habitat was cleared. They are then transferred to the brown and green roof areas as soon as practicable.

Crest Nicholson constantly review and monitor the site, revising the project programme where necessary to prevent any disturbance to the wildlife during construction.

## Exemplar Regeneration

Bath Riverside, is already a stunning collection of new homes and an important regeneration site. The development is transforming Bath's western riverfront into a modern residential quarter, which will benefit both residents and visitors for years to come.

Crest Nicholson is still transforming this unique 44-acre, brownfield site into what will be an exemplar regeneration, mixed-use development of sustainable homes, student accommodation, a primary school, local shops, restaurants, and other community services and public facilities.

## To further support the development's biodiversity Crest also created:

- An on-site 'soil hospital', through which 45,000 tons of soil has already been moved and cleaned on-site for re-use
- Areas to support over 18,500 trees and shrubs planted as part of Phase 1, which were a mixture of mature and semi-mature plants and seedlings
- A new riverfront park created to include new habitats for wildlife
- Landscaped spaces between buildings that include play space for families
- New habitats created as part of landscape design, including a wetland area



## End-of-year accounts show growth



Year-end accounts show 32.8 per cent year-on-year growth at leading lightweight steel roofing tile firm **Metrotile UK**. The company enjoyed sales of just over £7.1 million in 2014/15 which came to a close at the end of January. Following a strong end to the year, the figure was even higher than forecast and is up by 32.8 per cent on the previous year's sales of £5.3 million.

John Cunningham, managing director of Metrotile UK, said: "It's been an amazing year for us as we've sold more than one million tiles for the first time."

01249 658514 [www.metrotile.co.uk](http://www.metrotile.co.uk)

Enq. 109

## Kelly Hoppen MBE joins Polypipe



Kelly Hoppen MBE, the UK's leading interior design icon and star of the BBC's popular *Dragons' Den*, has been confirmed as brand ambassador for **Polypipe's** market leading underfloor heating. The winner of multiple international design awards, Kelly has long been a proponent of underfloor heating and utilises it to maximise all of the available space where

projects allow. With the underfloor heating market growing in the UK, Kelly will be making consumers aware of the aesthetic and lifestyle benefits that systems can offer, and just how affordable they can be.

01709 770000 [www.polypipeufh.com](http://www.polypipeufh.com)

Enq. 111

## Vent-Axia is a Business Superbrand



**Vent-Axia**, a market leading British ventilation manufacturer, is delighted to announce that it has been ranked as a UK Business (B2B) Superbrand for 2015. The award follows robust independent research commissioned by The Centre for Brand Analysis (TCBA), which identifies the UK's Superbrands in an annual league table. Compiled since 2001, the UK

Business Superbrand is considered the Business-to-Business brand barometer. The annual survey involves voting undertaken by marketing experts, business professionals and thousands of British consumers.

0844 856 0590 [www.vent-axia.com](http://www.vent-axia.com)

Enq. 113

## Designer Contracts expands business



UK-based flooring contractor **Designer Contracts** is trebling its central distribution depot with a move to larger premises. It follows another successful 12 months for the business, which has just announced an annual turnover of £30 million – a 16 per cent increase on the previous year. The relocation sees an increase in size from 44,000 to 109,000 sq

ft, offering three times the amount of storage capacity. The unit will also become the base for Designer Contracts' South & East Midlands regional office, currently based a few miles away.

01246 854577 [www.designercontracts.com](http://www.designercontracts.com)

Enq. 115

## Continuing to cut carbon footprint



For the sixth consecutive year **Swish Building Products** has succeeded in reducing its carbon footprint; it now produces 32 per cent less CO<sub>2</sub> than it did in its base line year of 2008. In 2014 Swish processed a record number of tonnes of material and despite this the company's carbon emissions from its manufacturing processes were down 6.5 per cent per

tonne. Once again the company's electricity consumption proved to be the biggest saving, giving an overall improvement of 30.5 per cent since 2008; in real terms that's equivalent to powering 1,050 UK homes.

01827 317 200 [www.swishbp.co.uk](http://www.swishbp.co.uk)

Enq. 110

## Synseal's new digital specialist



Synseal's busy Marketing department welcomes a new Digital Marketing Manager, Max Muscroft. The digital environment is a fast-paced and ever-developing arena and Max has been involved with websites and digital communications ever since the birth of the internet. Now Max has made the move across from promoting and selling dreams

of shiny metal vehicles to marketing Synseal's diverse range of home improvement products, including the very latest WarmCore aluminium folding sliding doors.

01623 443200 [www.synseal.com](http://www.synseal.com)

Enq. 112

## AluK's ambitious sales strategy



Capitalising on its continued business expansion, **AluK** has made a number of new senior appointments to bolster its growing sales team and support its new sales structure. The new appointments will oversee the delivery of a new sales strategy as the company seeks to achieve further growth and prominence in the aluminium building systems sector.

Heading up the new senior sales and marketing team is Graham Hurrell, who joins as Commercial Director. Graham will build on AluK's growth with the implementation of a new sales growth strategy.

01633 810440 [www.aluk.co.uk](http://www.aluk.co.uk)

Enq. 114

## News Bytes

Visit [www.hbdonline.co.uk](http://www.hbdonline.co.uk) and enter the reference number for more information

Turley secures permission for Derbyshire village extension...  
Ref: 16268

Greens pledge to cut VAT on housing repairs...  
Ref: 10054

MAB comments on the Bank of England Credit Conditions Survey (2015 Q1)...  
Ref: 47585

Barratt Homes opens door to new showhome...  
Ref: 43678

Miller Homes welcomes buyers...  
Ref: 48029

CML members adopt new statement of practice...  
Ref: 65790

# Bathrooms & Kitchens Supplement

# HbD

This annual Bathrooms & Kitchens supplement showcases the latest products and innovations from the last year



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# OUT WITH THE TAP... IN WITH A Quooker®

**QUOOKER FUSION:** a single tap for hot, cold and 100°C boiling water.



## **HISTORY** - Over 40 years in the making - that's why all boiling water taps are not the same

When engineer Henri Peteri was working on the development of instant soup in the late 1960s for an international food company, he realised that soup would never be 'instant' without boiling water on tap. From that moment on he was captivated by this idea. He left the company he was working for and started developing an appliance that would dispense boiling water instantly. Quooker was born.

## **THE WORLD'S FIRST** - Dedicated 100°C boiling

Quooker remains the world's first and only dedicated 100°C boiling-water tap and holds global patents. The FUSION marked a significant development in the history of the company and now you can have one tap that delivers hot, cold and 100°C boiling water.

## **CONSUMER DEMAND** - 1.5 million annual marketing spend driving customers to your showroom

Extensive multi-platform marketing is creating significant consumer demand and Quooker's impactful advertising campaigns engage with consumers across television, print and online media. The UK has over 75,000 Quooker users some of whom you will see on Television in shows such as Masterchef, Saturday Kitchen and Great British Bake Off to name but a few. That's why all boiling water taps are not the same.

## **KITCHEN SHOWROOM LINE ONLY** - Fusion is not available via any online appliance sites

The FUSION has been launched as a kitchen showroom line only. It's not available online demonstrating Quooker's commitment to its kitchen dealer network.

Contact us to find out more on the Quooker FUSION.

**0808 102 1341**  
[www.quooker.co.uk](http://www.quooker.co.uk)



**Quooker®**  
THE BOILING-WATER TAP





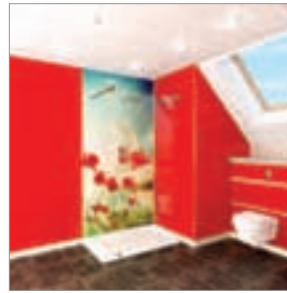
Quooker's boiling water taps deliver genuine 100°C boiling water, so that they can completely replace a kettle. Most popular is Quooker's patented award winning Fusion COMBI system, which dispenses exactly the required amount of 100°C boiling water while also providing an instant supply of hot water (50-65°C), which operates from a cold water feed only. The Fusion COMBI System provides instant cold, warm and boiling water, saving time when cooking and washing up, as well as helping you to make a significant saving on domestic energy and water bills. Visit the website for more.

Enq. 302



ESG – one of the UK's leading manufacturers of technical glass products – has opened its new display stand at the National Self Build and Renovation Center. Open to the public throughout the year, the center is designed to highlight the very latest in new products for the self-build market. ESG has built its stand to showcase its controllable range of glass, which includes Switchable LCD glass, Solarchromic climate control glass and Optic LED glass. It highlights not only the product but also the different applications that the glass can be used in such as sliding doors, roof panels and shower cubicles.

Enq. 303

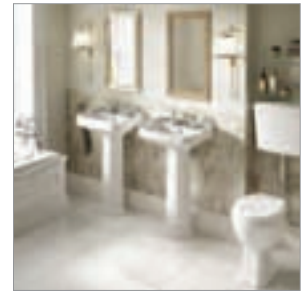


Personalise your panels. With waterproof wall panels making a real splash in the bathroom market as a practical yet luxurious alternative to tiles, **multiPANEL** has just raised the bar:

- Add photos – convert high resolution digital images into feature shower panels
- Add tunes – convert shower panels into speakers with the Bluetooth compatible soundPANEL system
- Add light – Embed back-lit acrylic shapes into your shower panel with multiPANEL glow (coming soon).

Find out more by visiting the company's website.

Enq. 305



The new Roxton suite from Lecico is a ceramic design of Victorian styling epitomising traditional English design but with all the benefits of modern technology. Featuring period detailing on its basin splash-back and stepped design around the basin rim that's reflected through the Roxton family. The collection includes a 53cm two tap hole basin with full pedestal, and a low level or close coupled pan option. It can be mixed and matched with Lecico's New Hamilton family adding a high level cistern option too. Lecico has a new brochure for 2015 to support all its products, which can be viewed on the company's website.

Enq. 309



# Total Glass Solutions







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- Shower cubicles
- Digital printing
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[www.esg.glass](http://www.esg.glass)

0845 4212364

Enq. 303

# Exciting new development gets the full Schlüter®-WETROOMS package

Schlüter-Systems' innovative wetrooms range has been used in an exciting new housing project which will see 15 brand new homes built at the site of a former quarry.

Chantry Quarry will offer villa-style four-bedroom houses for sale complete with high quality en-suite bathrooms – and thanks to Schlüter the ongoing protection and maintenance of these bathrooms is assured.

Chosen for its easy assembly and great results the Schlüter®-WETROOMS collection provide a fully integrated product suite which includes top of the range waterproofing sets, drainage systems and uncoupling and waterproofing membranes for tiling walls and floors.

The Chantry Quarry bathrooms boast an array of Schlüter products. Schlüter®-KERDI-LINE has played an important role, as its linear drain channel system offers a particularly low assembly height and has helped give the bathrooms a seamless style finish, along with pre-sloped shower base Schlüter®-KERDI-SHOWER.

Schlüter's popular product Schlüter®-DITRA

25 matting, the original uncoupling and waterproofing matting for tile coverings has also been used underneath the bathrooms ceramic tiles. Perfect for bathroom installations, the matting neutralises tensions between substrate and surface, with the added benefit of interconnected air channels which help moisture to evaporate.


Project Architect Tim Lane, of Paul Brookes Architects Ltd, commented: "The great thing about the Schlüter®-WETROOMS range is that it comes in all-in-one wetroom kits which include all the components you need to provide waterproofing solutions for walls and floors. We found them very simple to use and easy to install and they have provided a great overall finish."

Other products to be used in the build included Schlüter®-KERDI-BOARD a unique multifunctional tile substrate for wall areas which can also be used to create bonded waterproofing assemblies with tile coverings. The product is 100 per cent waterproof, lightweight and completely even and flat making it the perfect substrate for tiling.




Visit the website [www.schluter.co.uk](http://www.schluter.co.uk) or call 01530 813396

Enq. 304



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



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## QI electric shower range from MX



MX Group's 'QI' electric shower range – a 'quick installation' range of electric showers that sets new standards for simple installation – is proving popular across the UK.

Featuring eight entry points for water and electric – these showers are one of the simplest shower installations available.

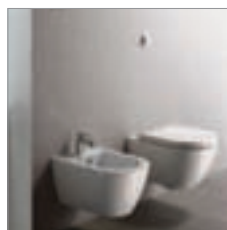
The slim QI range is ideal for new build or retrofit opportunities.

Visit the MX Group website or call for more information.

01684 293311 [www.mx-group.com](http://www.mx-group.com)

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## GSI Ceramica – pure Italian style



GSI Ceramica offers five distinctive ranges of quality sanitaryware designed and made in Italy: Sand, Norm, Pura, Kube and Classic, all of which come with dedicated high quality storage solutions, creating pure Italian design inspiration for bathroom projects. The versatility of these collections also provides exciting mix and match options. Particularly successful is

the teaming of the dynamic Kube basin with the stylish Pura wall hung WC, an elegant contemporary solution and perfect for the housebuilding sector.

0208 685 6815 [www.gsiceramica.co.uk](http://www.gsiceramica.co.uk)

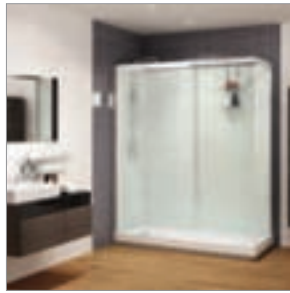
Enq. 307





Following hard on the heels of the recent launch of its new QI electric shower range and its new Expressions shower tray range with the hidden wastes, **MX Group** has unveiled its latest offering to the bathroom sector, an impressive new range of thermostatic mixer shower valves offering its usual combination of incredible quality, great looking product, excellent warranties and keen pricing. So confident is MX of the quality of its new Thermostatic Mixer Showers, that it offers a three or five year guarantee on its Atmos range of valves. There are 22 choices in the Atmos and Options ranges.

Enq. 315



**Saniflo** has extended its range of Kinemagic shower cubicles to include three new models – Design, Style and Serenity – to give customers a more comprehensive choice. Designed to fit in to exactly the same space as a bath the cubicles all feature integrated opaque glass panels, shower tray and shelves and can be specified as recessed and corner installations. Kinemagic Design is primarily aimed at the contractor or end-user who requires a high quality, contemporary shower cubicle that is simple to install and leak-free. The Style and Serenity models are designed for less able customers.

Enq. 324



Imagine a toilet that has no need for water, sewage systems, miles of plumbing, septic tanks, cess pits etc. and has the freedom to be put anywhere you can put a conventional WC. Well, there is such a product from **EcoToilets**, a dry separating toilet that works on the design of the human body. Urine is directed one way and solids the other, the solids will in time produce marvellous compost and the urine, which is sterile can be used on the compost heap or, soaked or drained away. There is no smell, no waste, and no expensive problems.... Simplicity at its best. Visit the EcoToilets website for more.

Enq. 325



**Neoperl** consider it is up to home and business owners alike to change their attitude towards water consumption and to start implementing water efficient measures. We live in a world where global warming, carbon footprint, climate change and the greenhouse effect are all well known phrases, but water saving is still not generating enough attention. Neoperl products provide a valuable contribution to climate and environmental protection by conserving water and helping to reduce the associated energy consumption in the production of hot water. Neoperl offer innovative solutions for the controlled supply of water.

Enq. 326

## PANELAND FURNITURE LTD – 01299 271143



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- Knotted, primed and painted units are now available

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

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Or call our offices: CLEOBURY MORTIMER, SHROPSHIRE: 01299 271143  
NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE: 01606 41292

Enq. 308

## New Senner now available

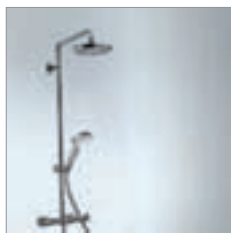


01234 244030  
[www.lecico.co.uk](http://www.lecico.co.uk)

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## Improve your shower experience



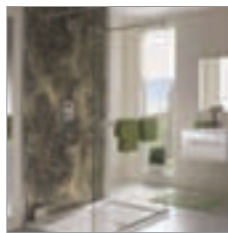
Hansgrohe has set a new benchmark with its innovative Croma Select range. Now for the first time, the Croma collection features Select technology – making it easy to switch between spray modes at the intuitive touch of a button. Easy handling and its attractive design ensure a more comfortable and pleasurable experience in any bathroom. The Croma Select family

consists of hand showers, overhead showers and showerpipes. The showerheads are available with a choice of one or up to three spray modes, and in two different shapes.

01372 465655 [www.hansgrohe.co.uk](http://www.hansgrohe.co.uk)

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## Showerwall offers realistic stone look



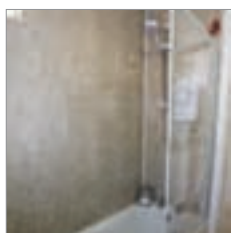
The Showerwall waterproof wall panelling system includes five luxurious décors which answer the trends for natural marbles and stones in bathroom interiors, giving retailers a fast and easy way to create a luxury look that doesn't need the on-going maintenance of real stone – but without the price-tag. The panels mirror the look of real stone but as they are

laminated, they have the benefit of being lightweight to handle, easy to cut and quick and easy to install. The five designs are available in a mixture of fashionable gloss and matt textures.

0845 604 7334 [www.showerwall.co.uk](http://www.showerwall.co.uk)

Enq. 311

## Residents choose Marbrex



Part of an ongoing bathroom refurbishment programme, housing association Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd has installed **Marbrex** as a wall covering in over 4,500 homes. Now in its fourth year the programme has seen over 80 per cent of residents choose Marbrex over a tiled alternative. The panels are supplied by stockist, EWE Plastics of Caernarfon,

Gwynedd via Travis Perkins Group Managed Services. The housing association conducted a value engineering project to determine the suitability of the cladding product prior to specification.

01827 317200 [www.marbrexpanels.co.uk](http://www.marbrexpanels.co.uk)

Enq. 312

## Zucchetti brassware



85 years of experience and a commitment to innovation enables **Zucchetti** to continue to create iconic contemporary brassware and showers. Zucchetti works with renowned international designers resulting in many award winning design concepts. From the clean deceptively simple lines of the accessible On collection, through to Savoy, the

definition of minimalist understated elegance, Zucchetti's extensive collection is imaginative, inspirational and has been developed to suit a wide range of design briefs and project budgets.

0208 685 6815 [www.zucchettidesign.co.uk](http://www.zucchettidesign.co.uk)

Enq. 313

## Freefoam add new products to Geo-panel range



**Freefoam Building Products** announces the addition of a new 600mm wide panel to its popular Geo-panel internal panelling range. The panels will be available in six attractive finishes. The existing range of panels has seen significant growth in 2014 and figures from Q1 show this trend is continuing. The new 600mm wide panel offers greater flexibility by providing a product that can quickly and simply create a 1200mm waterproof shower enclosure in just one day. The new products also feature accompanying aluminium trims in white and silver to create a strong, neat, professional finish. The Geo-panel interior decorative panelling system is also available in 250mm panel for walls and ceilings and a one metre wide panel perfect for showers. These 100 per cent waterproof high gloss tongue and groove PVC panels are available in contemporary and traditional shades ideal for all areas including both commercial and domestic bathrooms, kitchens, conservatories, offices, extensions and utility rooms. Geo-panel decorative panels offer significant benefits to the construction industry, local authorities and housing associations. Time is money and Geo-panel saves time with its quick and easy fit – no drying time and grouting necessary – work can often be completed in just one day.

01604 591110 [www.freefoam.com](http://www.freefoam.com)

Enq. 314

# A New Collection of Thermostatic Mixer Showers

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## Atmos Options

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\*Martleton Cross Limited Trading as The MX Group

Enq. 315



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316



**Baumatic**



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## Purmo's stylish new Leros



Heating manufacturer **Purmo** has launched the Leros, a distinctive and stylish new bathroom ladder style radiator. The Leros comes in standard white, but is also stocked in a radical textured matte black for a super-fast lead time for this highly attractive and unusual finish. With excellent green credentials, the highly energy efficient Leros is also perfect for

use with low temperature heating systems, despite being a hot new model. Leros has larger than average 28mm diameter tubes and spacious gaps to allow for really easy towel placing and storage.

0191 492 1700 [www.purmo.co.uk](http://www.purmo.co.uk)

Enq. 317

## Franke's new easy-to-install sorter



**Franke** is making household waste recycling even easier with the introduction of its new, easy to install 300 Series Sorter Systems, which provide hygienic and convenient plastic bins that fit neatly into any standard cabinet for the ultimate flexible and convenient alternative to a conventional waste bin.

The robust bins have handles so are easily lifted in and out for emptying, cleaning and carrying and for securing waste bags. A lid closes over the sorters to contain odours and the roll-out carrier is fully waterproof, simple to dismantle and easy to clean.

0161 436 6280 [www.franke.co.uk](http://www.franke.co.uk)

Enq. 318

## Abode Connekt Flushfit sink



The latest **Abode** innovation is Connekt Flushfit, an ultra slim flush fit or inset sink range. With its ultra-thin edge detailing, it delivers a sleek contemporary look to any chosen worktop. The bowl sinks are produced in premium grade stainless steel. Connekt Flushfit can be fitted at the same surface level as the worktop by inseting or alternatively fitted conventionally as an

inset with stylish low-profile edges. Connect Flushfit comes complete with the unique Abode Orbit waste and all plumbing pipework required, plus a pre-fitted seal strip around the underside edge.

01226 283434 [www.abode.eu](http://www.abode.eu)

Enq. 319

## Enjoy a touch of glamour



Create a style statement with the sleek, new Arezzo kitchen from leading multi-award winning appliance specialist **Caple**. The smooth curves and minimalist design are the perfect fit for a contemporary kitchen and will match with a wide range of colour schemes and design themes. The doors are available in a cashmere lacquered gloss finish with PVC edges. These

reflective gloss surfaces help to bounce light around the room, creating a sense of space, which is perfect for smaller kitchens or those lacking natural light. In a warm grey colour, this tone reflects the latest trend for modern neutrals in the kitchen.

Enq. 320

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## Reginox launches RegiDrain



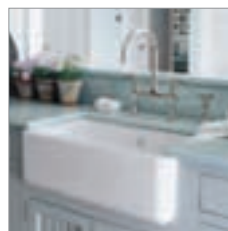
Sinks, taps and accessories manufacturer, **Reginox**, has launched the RegiDrain, a stainless steel sink that is ideal for installation where space is tight. The sink has been introduced in response to the growing demand for compact sinks for use in new build apartments and developments, where maximising space in the kitchen is often a key objective.

RegiDrain features a standard size bowl and a half drainer, measuring just 595mm x 470mm in total and with a bowl depth of 160mm. Manufactured in 18/10 stainless steel, it is the perfect budget sink.

01260 280033 [www.reginox.co.uk](http://www.reginox.co.uk)

Enq. 321

## Classic Butler 1000 sink



Look out for this British made, Classic Butler 1000mm sink from **Shaws of Darwen**. The heavyweight, deep Victorian style sink features a round overflow on the sink wall and is perfect for new build or refurbishment projects in contemporary styled kitchens. The sink features a 3½" waste outlet and is manufactured with a durable glaze

designed for years of usage. Due to the weight of the Classic Butler, Shaws recommend that bespoke cabinetry is in place prior to installation of the sink.

01254 775111 [www.shawsofdarwen.com](http://www.shawsofdarwen.com)

Enq. 322

## Product Bytes

Visit [www.hbdonline.co.uk](http://www.hbdonline.co.uk) and enter the reference number for more information

Shaws of Darwen classic 800 waterside sink...

Ref: 70780

The unique modular wet-floor system from CCL Wetrooms...

Ref: 93996

Professional advice for stylish and practical kitchen design...

Ref: 44904

No more movement with Sit Tight...

Ref: 68314

Abode's Estimo monobloc mixertap...

Ref: 44130

Wet room wonders from Schlüter-Systems...

Ref: 76021

Abacus Elements wet rooms – high on technology, low on carbon footprint...

Ref: 57132

Hansgrohe launches Axor Citterio E...

Ref: 63516

Aqata's 2015 Luxury Shower Enclosures brochure...

Ref: 65749

Klover Smart 120 wood pellet cooker...

Ref: 10824

Saniflo talks cubicles...

Ref: 74846

Sanifloor plumbs another possibility...

Ref: 88928

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Enq. 323

# KBB at May Design Series 2015

**MAY  
DESIGN  
SERIES**

Kitchens  
Bedrooms  
Bathrooms  
17-19 May 2015, London ExCeL  
maydesignseries.com

Returning to London for its third edition in 2015, the May Design Series showcases 500 of the best international and British brands across five sectors: Furniture, KBB, Lighting, Decor and DX, a pavilion focused upon the use of new technologies and materials.

Organised by the creators of KBB Birmingham and Decorex and spanning three days from 17 May at ExCeL London, this year's show is 'Curated for Business' and will reveal some of the most exciting design-led companies from over 25 countries. As always, the KBB galleries are a popular highlight. From the UK to Italy, Germany to France... here's a small sample of this year's exhibitors. The full list is now available at: [www.maydesignseries.com](http://www.maydesignseries.com).

Hailing from Pescara on the east coast of Italy, Aran Kitchens' presents a wide spectrum of beautiful kitchen and bedroom ranges to satisfy a diverse range of needs and budgets. Aran has worked with a number of high profile designers such as Karim Rashid, and recent projects include the kitchen of Tommy Hilfiger's Miami home.

Regularly launching kitchen designs, concepts and finishes, German manufacturer Leicht promises not to disappoint. It's new 'Concrete' finish, with varying light refraction and a matt-lacquer sealing, brings a chic, industrial look to kitchens. Offering style, versatility and a myriad of colours at competitive prices, Leicht has recently opened a showroom in London's Battersea.

Ponte Giulio, one of Europe's largest manufacturers of elegant solutions for safer, accessible and stylish bathrooms, will showcase WingIts –



© Aran Kitchens



© THG Paris

the world's strongest wall fixture. WingIts meet and exceed ADA guidelines, and the grab bar fastening installs in fewer than 15 minutes with no special tools required. The Midioplan bathroom range will also be on display, including colourful basins and shower trays and hands-free taps with motion sensors to regulate water temperature. The Italian company's products are suitable for all bathrooms in the home, hospitals, nursing homes, hotels and other commercial and residential buildings.

This year, Logicom has launched the latest generation of Virtual Worlds Professional

(5.9), delivering higher quality photo-realistic renders, 25 per cent faster than ever before. When presenting options to a client, designers can now rapidly flick between alternative 3D layouts, highlighting style, colour and budget options. This is available free of charge to current users, and Virtual Worlds supports its CAD software with a training programme, and technical hotline.

THG Paris is a French manufacturer of luxurious bathroom fittings and accessories, responsible for equipping gorgeous hotels, palaces and private residences all over the world.



© Ponte Giulio



© Leicht





The company is presenting its new 'Beyond Crystal' collection produced in collaboration with elite designer, Rémi Tessier. This contemporary collection is defined by its modern style – featuring crystal lattices available in four colours, along with pure shapes produced by renowned crystal manufacturer Baccarat. THG has been awarded the prestigious French 'EPV' quality label (a 'living heritage company') by the French Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry.



Artinox brings to London their handcrafted stainless steel kitchen sinks and workshops all the way from the Veneto region in north-east Italy. Each sink is manufactured from the best quality AISI 204 18/10 stainless steel – strong, durable, water proof, shock and corrosion resistant, and hygienic – and they guarantee constant thickness and easy-to-clean design edges. The company also offers handcrafted, tailor-made and environmentally responsible solutions, with constant innovations, up-to-date machinery and best practices in energy saving.

British Ceramic Tile Ltd is a leading UK tile manufacturer and distributor, supplying to national and international retailers, house-builders and specifiers. Their new 'Parian' range of porcelain wall and floor tiles embraces the rich tones of Marsala – dubbed this year's hot colour by Pantone – fusing together a myriad of muted shades into one stunning vintage-inspired patchwork tile. A distinctive brick tile, 'Artisan' is a ceramic wall tile collection full of character. With a traditional handmade feel, each tile features a

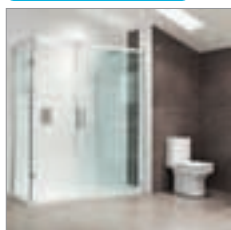
rustic glazed surface and muted colour palette. The collection now includes four new harmonious colours: Creamware, Amethyst, Duck Egg and Willow, in a new elongated 750mm x 300mm size, allowing homeowners to mix and match and add a real design statement to any wall or room.

May Design Series will also be home to a number of exclusive features themed around design and commerciality. The New Design Britain Awards will display the work of 30 finalists across six categories, with the winners revealed live on Monday 18 May. Beautiful textiles can be discovered at the Fabric Pavilion, and 40 of the UK's top Designer Makers will showcase bespoke product designs ready to buy or commission. Brand new for 2015 is a complimentary CPD-accredited Seminar and Conference programme featuring different high profile keynote speakers each day and a partnership with CEDIA (the Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association) to create an audio visual and home automation area.

**Registration for the show is now open – to claim your free pass, visit [www.maydesignseries.com](http://www.maydesignseries.com)**

## Roman reveals new designs

KBB Zone stand no B190



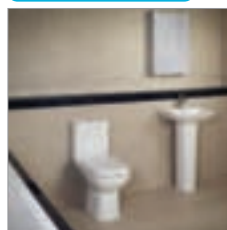
Roman is eagerly preparing to exhibit new launches at the May Design Series in the KBB section. Roman will be presenting a preview of its new Liber8 Range, which will include the Liber8 Hinged Door in the stunning brushed nickel finish and the Liber8 Hinged Door with two In-Line Panels and Side Panel. Roman's Liber8 range is a collection of ultra-minimalistic

frameless designed shower enclosures. Their minimalistic design is perfectly presented with the door being hinged directly from the wall or from the glass with ultra-clear seals, creating a flawless design. The Collection will be officially launched from summer 2015.

Enq. 116

## RAK launch new bathroom range

KBB Zone stand no A190



RAK Ceramics is set to launch a new compact bathroom range and complementary surfaces at this year's May Design Series, within the KBB zone. Exhibiting at the show for the first time, the new RAK launches will include the Origin 62 range of basins and sanitaryware, and polished porcelain tile collection, GEMS. The new Origin 62

range includes three basins and a WC, which each have a sleek, contemporary design and are WRAS-approved. The complementary GEMS tile collection includes four colour options.

01730 237850 [www.rakceramics.co.uk](http://www.rakceramics.co.uk)

Enq. 117





Anti-slip shower tray

Easy entry shower tray

Optional shower seat

## All it takes to transform a bathroom is a little Kinemagic.

The stunning Kinemagic shower cubicle fits perfectly into the same space as a bath. Its innovative design requires no silicone or re-tiling, meaning it can be installed in just a day.\* With an anti-slip shower tray, secure grab bar and optional fold-down seat the Kinemagic style provides that little bit of extra help for a safe showering experience.

Reader  
Enquiry  
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For more information or to request a brochure visit [kinedo.co.uk](http://kinedo.co.uk).



Designed by the experts at  
**SANIFLO**

\*It is possible to fit a Kinemagic in just one day with two people. However, this is subject to site situations and the competency of your installer.

## Horizontal Sentinel Kinetic range



Vent-Axia has added the 200ZP to its popular Sentinel Kinetic horizontal range of mechanical ventilation. Part of the company's innovative Lo-Carbon™ initiative, the new compact boasts an impressive 86 per cent thermal efficiency. Developed for modern thermally efficient homes the range features revolutionary summer bypass to ensure year-round

thermal comfort. The 200ZP's performance is further enhanced by the latest high efficiency backward curved impeller design ensuring lowest possible energy consumption and ultra-quiet operation.

0844 856 0590 [www.vent-axia.com](http://www.vent-axia.com)

Enq. 118

## Polypipe Ventilation's new catalogues



Polypipe Ventilation is pleased to announce the arrival of its new and informative 76 page Product Selector which covers the company's comprehensive range of energy saving domestic and light commercial ventilation systems, accompanied by a concise 20 page Short Form Product Guide. To ensure the Product Selector remains easy

to use, more detailed technical information has been cleverly incorporated without increasing the size of the catalogue – including a section that covers useful product and installation 'Hints and Tips' and real life case studies.

Enq. 119

## New Silavent Sapphire fan range



Polypipe Ventilation has launched the new Silavent Sapphire range of bathroom and kitchen intermittent extract fans and Decentralised Mechanical Extract Ventilation (dMEV) units in a contemporary and minimalist design, coupled with extremely quiet performance. Sapphire fans are available as both standard and Green Line energy

efficient models, with extremely low Specific Fan Powers (SFP) to comply with Building Regulations at an extremely attractive price point – making them perfect for new builds as well as replacements for home owners looking to reduce their carbon footprint.

Enq. 121

## New Domus duct products



Polypipe Ventilation has added two exciting new products to its Domus range of ducting systems: high efficiency 90° bends and a new inlet/outlet plenum with integral flow control device. The new 90° bends are available for use with Polypipe Ventilation's best selling Supertube and Megaduct rectangular rigid duct systems.

The unique design of the 90° bends results in reduced air speed through the bend, thus lowering system noise as well as smoothing the air flow, thereby helping to achieve higher air flow rates when required. These factors improve home owner comfort and make central ventilation systems easier to specify.

Enq. 122



## HOPEFlow used for military homes

Hope Construction Materials, has completed the supply of 12,500m<sup>3</sup> of concrete for the build of more than 300 new military homes. The project, which launched in August, saw 346 new homes built, with Hope providing the concrete slab flooring for each home, using its HOPEFlow high-performance, self-compacting concretes, to ensure that the build was completed to a stringent timescale. To be able to accommodate troops returning from Germany, the build needs to be completed in just 11 months. As such the HOPEFlow performance products were used in a bid to minimise cost and project duration, laying 20 slabs per week as opposed to an average of four. By doing so groundwork subcontractor Chasetown were able to save time, pouring the slabs without the need of power floating, with slab construction time reduced by nearly 75 per cent. Hope supplied 2,500m<sup>3</sup> of HOPEFlow concrete and 10,000m<sup>3</sup> of conventional concrete

0207 647 6228 [www.hopeconstructionmaterials.com](http://www.hopeconstructionmaterials.com)

Enq. 120

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[www.vortice.ltd.uk](http://www.vortice.ltd.uk)

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## Hultafors anti-vibration hammer



Hultafors hammer out leading edge tool technology yet again. Typical of Hultafors' quality, this is a well-balanced bricklayer's hammer with a narrow straight chisel, nail puller and Hultafors' unique ergonomic handle with an end stop. It has a continuous steel body forged into a single piece, combined with a tempered striking surface and chisel, the

hammer is extremely durable. There's also a urethane plug in the head, that reduces vibration when striking objects and it is well balanced, making it easier to break masonry. All in all it's a tool you should consider getting to grips with.

Enq. 124

## Snickers' Canvas+ Toolvest



Unbeatable functionality, quality and comfort – the Canvas+ is the latest addition to the **Snickers** range of Toolvests. With Cordura-reinforced versatility, this hard-wearing Toolvest ensures you have easy access to your essential tools at all times. There's built-in ergonomic tool carrying and all the pockets you need – for outstanding

working comfort and efficiency on site. The Cordura front holster pockets have tool loops for enhanced durability and easy-access angled rear holster pockets. There's also Cordura breast pockets with a knife fastener and ID badge window.

Enq. 126

## Wondertex launch all new filler



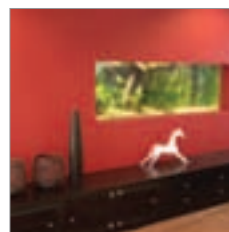
Wondertex, the internal finishing brand from the Instarmac Group, is proud to announce the launch of prem fill & finish, its new plasterboard filler and smoother. Formerly known as Premier Filler, the product has been given a complete makeover and boasts a number of additional features. Now available nationwide, prem fill & finish sports

dramatic new look packaging, an improved formulation, new sizes and long life bag. prem fill & finish is available in two new sizes, 7.5kg and 15kg ideally suiting the needs of both retailers and contractors alike.

01827 871871 [www.wondertex.co.uk](http://www.wondertex.co.uk)

Enq. 125

## TeknosPro builds distributor network

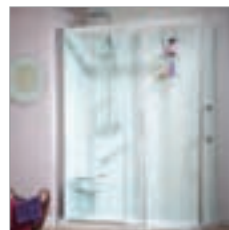


TeknosPro is busy building a strategic network of independent stockists for its range of high quality professional decorating products for walls, ceilings, wood and metal. The Swedish-owned company is already a leading UK supplier of industrial coatings used extensively in the manufacture of traditional joinery products and windows. With the launch

of TeknosPro in 2014, professional tradespeople now have a range of products that are compatible and complementary with many factory finishes. With its range of high-tech paints and coatings, TeknosPro is targeting the top end of the market.

Enq. 127

## Serenity shower cubicle from Saniflo



Suitable for all the family, the Saniflo Kinemagic Serenity is also perfect for less able members of the household. The Kinemagic Serenity facilitates care assisted showering or extra peace of mind for those who need a little extra help. This high quality, all-in-one shower cubicle has been designed to fit in exactly the same space as an old bath and with integrated

thermostatic shower control, a comfortable fold-down seat that takes up to 150kg, anti-slip flooring and secure grab bars, it provides the ultimate, safe showering experience.

0208 842 0033 [www.kinedo.co.uk](http://www.kinedo.co.uk)

Enq. 129

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[www.warmagrip.co.uk](http://www.warmagrip.co.uk) @ [marketing@brundle.com](mailto:marketing@brundle.com) 0115 951 2450

Enq. 128

## Product Bytes

Visit [www.hbdonline.co.uk](http://www.hbdonline.co.uk) and enter the reference number for more information

Snickers' Quilted Jacket – ideal for work and pleasure...  
Ref: 31905

Einhell 2015 catalogue featuring the latest innovations...  
Ref: 80557

Dickies authorised Builders Merchants Workwear Dealers...  
Ref: 27892

Trend Polycrystalline Diamond Tipped router cutter...  
Ref: 85628

Scruffs new 3D expert floor laying trouser...  
Ref: 69417

PUNK: aggressive accessories for peak performance...  
Ref: 92854



# Accessing disabled needs

By Robin Tuffley, marketing manager at Clos-o-Mat, supplier of toilet solutions for disabled and elderly people

By 2030, one in three people in the UK will be aged over 55. Already, some 11 million people are registered disabled, and the figure increases each year. People want to age in their own homes as independently as possible, for as long as they are able. Currently, only 6 per cent of older people live in specialist accommodation. This percentage is unlikely to change much, since of 230,000 new households created every year, over 55 per cent of them will be headed by older people. The onus is on house-builders and developers to accommodate that sector's needs and aspirations.

The social model of disability is all about removing barriers, enabling disabled people to be independent, with choice and control over their own lives. And research shows giving people the appropriate environment and aids alleviates or eliminates their need for care support....

Currently, only 12 per cent of properties meet the four key features of accessibility – level access, flush threshold, wide doors and circulations areas and use of a toilet on the ground or entry floor.

Statistics show 25 per cent of households with a disabled person need a home adaptation. Bathrooms are the most common form of home

adaptation, with 20 per cent of disabled people in private households undertaking them.

Yet a little thought at the D&B stage, that would cost little, could eliminate many of those home adaptations, and could have a huge impact on the long-term viability of the home for an elderly or disabled person.

When design professionals such as architects or interior designers incorporate disabled people's needs into projects there can be a tendency to reduce disability to a singular form of mobility impairment, that of a wheelchair user.

We can often become fixated with the physical environment and forget about other aspects that contribute to making a home inclusive.

The first consideration is, if the user is in a wheelchair, can they actually access the rooms? Are doorways wide enough? Is there room to turn? Is the access level? We tend to fixate on level access with regard to showers, but all entry and doorways need to be as smooth as possible.

Sensory features of colour and texture play an important role in design, throughout the property. Not only does it make things more aesthetic, it also can offer visual and tactile guidance for those with impaired vision.



Shiny/glossy tiles can reflect light and often cause glare so it is worth considering whether matt effect tiles are more appropriate. The use of contrasting colour on the floor and walls can help to distinguish areas and promote independence. With some types of flooring, different colours can be bonded together to define different areas. Products with tactile features such as raised bumps, dimples or touch sensitive controls are also available to assist with the use of equipment such as shower controls, wash hand basins and or toilets.

**“Research shows giving people the appropriate environment and aids alleviates or eliminates their need for care support”**

In the bathroom, whereas we traditionally include a bath, most adaptations involve that being removed and changed to a level access shower; in a first floor or above flat, that poses drainage issues. So why not design the property



**“When you consider we go to the loo on average eight times a day, it is a fixture that is much overlooked in its worth and role in our day-to-day life”**

from the outset to be a wetroom? And make the shower flex longer than usual, so someone using a shower chair can still clean themselves. Replacement of a bath with a shower delivers more useable space within the bathroom, facilitating manoeuvrability if the primary user is in a wheelchair.

In an ideal world, an automatic shower (wash/dry) toilet in place of a conventional WC meets everyone's needs, being suitable for able and less able members of the family. And when you consider we go to the loo on average eight times a day, it is a fixture that is much overlooked in its worth and role in our day-to-day life. If the occupant needs a carer to help them, the financial and psychological cost of providing that care support is significant, and its elimination can be a useful sales tool to homeowner or social housing provider... in those terms, a wash/dry toilet would pay for itself in less than four months.



Even if a conventional WC is chosen, siting it to enable wheelchair transfer from left and right is one of those small details that makes a big difference to the eventual occupant.

On washbasins, lever taps are more user-friendly, and again, in the overall build costs, are an insignificant add-on cost to the developer but

a change that makes a huge difference to the potential buyer.

So designing and building for our elderly and disabled is not such an issue, and one that could, if done tastefully, appeal to the mainstream, meaning only one set of designs need be produced.

Enq. 130



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Enq. 131



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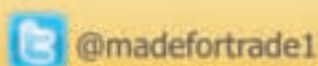
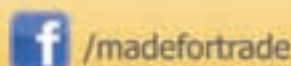
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additional thermal performance by extending the polyamide strips and inserting thermal foam, the range will provide a future-proof solution for casement windows meeting U-values up to 2016.

0208 685 9685 [www.comar-alu.co.uk](http://www.comar-alu.co.uk)

Enq. 133

## "Thumbs-up" from Synseal at Ecobuild



Synseal successfully exhibited at this year's Ecobuild. The key objectives were to demonstrate the diversity of Synseal's product solutions with a focus on true innovation and also introduce new sub-brand solutions following the acquisition of Sheerframe and Masterdor. Featured on the stand was Synseal's innovative WarmCore aluminium folding sliding

door, a Sheerframe 8000 fully reversible window, a high specification Masterdor composite door and a touchy-feely solar gain heat lamp to demonstrate the thermally-efficient Celsius performance glass.

01623 443200 [www.synseal.com](http://www.synseal.com)

Enq. 134

## Network VEKA's new partnership



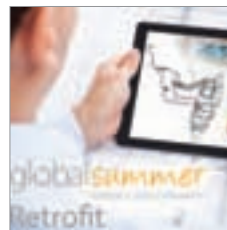
In another first for Network VEKA, member companies that wish to further enhance their offering to homeowners by achieving BSI Kitemark certification will now receive favourable rates, thanks to the shared objectives in the organisations' auditing processes. The BSI Kitemark represents one of the most widely recognised and revered independent

quality and safety certifications. Network VEKA installers will be able to enjoy projected potential cost savings of around 50 per cent compared to those footed by non-Network members.

01282 473170 [www.networkveka.co.uk](http://www.networkveka.co.uk)

Enq. 135

## Conservatories gain easy retro-fit



Synseal's popular Global conservatory roof, can now be enhanced with orangery style retro-fit solutions on both the inside and outside which are good-looking and straight forward to install. There are over 4 million existing conservatories currently gracing British homes, many of which will be in need of refurbishment to replace weathered frames and original

polycarbonate glazing. The new Global retro-fit solutions employ product elements from Synseal's proven and market-leading hybrid orangery design, Global Summer.

01623 443200 [www.synseal.com](http://www.synseal.com)

Enq. 136

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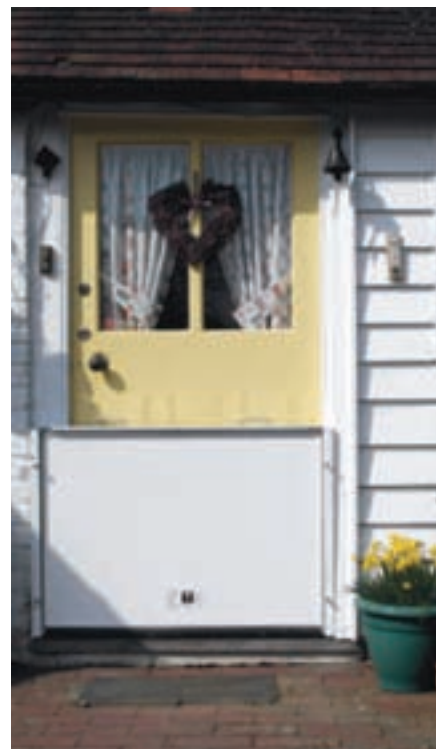
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# Home defence force: effective flood defence measures explained

Housebuilders and developers can keep the planning authorities happy and homeowners reassured by adopting simple, cost effective mitigation measures to both new builds or as 'retrofits' to existing properties, explains Frank Kelly, the founder of UK Flood Barriers



After experiencing relatively low levels of flooding this winter, it would be easy to dismiss the devastation of last year's floods as a one off event but the reality is very different. Around 5.3 million homes in the UK are at risk of flooding and the average annual cost to the economy is over £1.4 billion. Yet awareness of flood risk among both homeowners and developers is poor and there is little, if any, understanding of the range of defence measures available on the market to help

protect properties.

As a nation, we're currently counting the cost of introducing retrospective flood protection to homes, businesses and communities. As building land becomes scarcer and the demand for new homes grows, developers are turning to flood plains as a viable alternative. As a consequence, planning authorities are increasingly demanding a 'flood risk assessment' as a mandatory requirement of new planning applications.



## Regulations

Fire protection has quite rightly been a fundamental part of building regulations for many years. In more recent years environmental sustainability and energy efficiency have been added to the list for priority consideration. As an industry we are pushing for flood protection to be given the same status as these other fundamental regulatory requirements.

Architects, developers and construction companies who appreciate the importance their attention to the risk of flooding will have on their ability to secure planning approval on projects, are already considering mitigation solutions in the early planning stages of their building and infrastructure projects.

Evidence shows that by incorporating defence solutions as early as possible in the process, developers can be assured of both long-term protection at a fraction of the cost of post-build installation and, of course, that all-important planning consent.

## Modern solutions

The incorporation of solutions to protect the perimeter of a development site is a popular option with developers. Technology, such as self-

**"Around 5.3 million homes in the UK are at risk of flooding and the average annual cost to the economy is over £1.4 billion"**





activating flood barriers, which can be deployed with no human intervention, has been successfully introduced to riverside residential developments in both Cornwall and London.

Flood defence can be equally successful on an individual property basis. Although for many, the very term flood defence still conjures up images of sandbags or makeshift wooded boards desperately trying to stem the flow of muddy flood water, the reality is very different.

There is a large range of defence products designed to provide holistic flood protection across all areas of water ingress into a property.

## Reactive products

Products that offer 'reactive' door, brick and sewage protection are a cost effective, easy to install choice. Designed for individual properties, barriers and walls provide effective door defence, while airbrick covers and toilet bungs are both easily deployable in the event of a flood.

Barriers are constructed of a durable, high tensile panel set within lightweight aluminium frames making them easy to install and store. These are specifically designed and manufactured for each doorway of a property and come in a range of fixing options, including non-intrusive inset fixings or aesthetically sympathetic wall-mounted powder-coated rails, enabling the homeowner to choose the best finish for their decor.

Defender walls can be deployed to provide protection for longer spans including garage

doors, driveways and patio/french doors. Utilising a simple post and socket installation system, a wall is a cost effective and popular choice in developments where bi-folding and curtains walls are a dominant design feature.

## Passive products, active defence

Effective as these reactive products are, by far the most appealing solutions are 'passive' defence products that activate automatically in the event of a flood.

Although flood doors may look like standard uPVC door at first glance, they are highly engineered flood products featuring specially designed seals and a vertical/horizontal locking system developed in conjunction with specialist lock manufacturers. Some also come with a top escape hatch for easier evacuation.

## Bricks and backflow

But doorways are only one route of water ingress into a property. In excess of 5,000 litres of flood water an hour can enter a property through a standard airbrick alone. The simple replacement of a standard brick with an anti-flood airbrick, in which an internal flap automatically closes in the event of flooding, is a highly efficient and cost effective solution.

And while all flooding is distressing, the damage caused by sewage backflow is always particularly difficult for the homeowner. The simple addition of a non-return valve to a property's sewage system will ensure that in the event of a flood, an automatic 'shut off' flap activates to stop sewage flowing back into a property.

## And finally

As the old wives would say "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure". By researching just a few of the mitigation measures available on the market, installers and homeowners will have a clearer idea of how easy it is to protect a property. Vigilance is essential. Installers should be appropriately qualified to fit products and should always ensure products are Kitemarked, have been rigorously tested and are supplied by a reputable flood defence specialist.

Enq. 139



**"In excess of 5,000 litres of flood water an hour can enter a property through a standard airbrick alone"**



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Systems (SuDS). As we continue to cover more ground with concrete the need for efficient local rainwater infiltration/soakaway becomes increasingly important.

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## Wickes rolls out Setcrete™ floor



An extended range of Setcrete floor preparation products are now available in all Wickes branches nationwide. Setcrete Rapid Set 30 can be used to rapidly create a perfectly smooth, durable surface before the installation of new floorcoverings. Applicable in thicknesses of 2 - 10mm in a single application, Rapid Set 30 is walk-on hard in just 30 minutes, and can be ready

to receive new floorcoverings from only 45 minutes. Setcrete High Performance is a fibre-reinforced, flexible, fast-drying floor levelling compound, designed for use over plywood, concrete and cement screed subfloors. The product is designed to level uneven subfloors.

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## Viva la rollution!



Luxury Vinyl Tiles are becoming an increasingly popular flooring choice within residential and commercial properties due to their durability and attractive designs. Schönox iFloor from Everbuild Building Products is a revolutionary new system incorporating a unique rollable adhesive providing a fast and clean installation ensuring the mess and waiting times of standard flooring adhesives are a thing of the past. Supplied in kit form, Schönox iFloor contains Schönox KH Fix Primer, primer roller, iFloor Adhesive and adhesive roller. The kits are available in two sizes, each containing the required components to fit either 50m<sup>2</sup> or 125m<sup>2</sup> of LVT's. Using Schönox iFloor has many advantages over traditional flooring adhesives with speed and ease of application being the key benefits, as both the primer and adhesive are roller applied bringing an end to time consuming and back breaking trowelling. The system also has a long working time of two hours but a short waiting time of just 10 minutes, allowing the flooring to be laid quickly. Roller applying the adhesive in thin layers eliminates the problem of excessive adhesive residues and stops any residual adhesive moving up through the joints leaving both the vinyl surface and the installers hands clean.

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# Creating protection against climate change

Something affecting everyone is climate change, the resulting increased rainfall and subsequent flooding. The Pitt Review into the summer 2007 floods found that more than two thirds of the 57,000 homes affected were flooded by surface water runoff, not overflowing rivers. Kevin Weston, managing director of SureSet Permeable Paving talks about the welcomed rise of permeable ground reinforcement options

## From the US Army to your driveway

In September 1975, feasibility testing of laying approach roads over soft ground by the US Army led to the emergence of a new class of ground reinforcement: cellular grid structures.

Within five years' they were considered an important technology when applied to load support because, unlike conventional methods that involved excavating to install a sub-base capable of supporting vehicular traffic, grid structures provided an environmentally friendly above ground option.

Grid structures make suitable bases for: residential paths and driveways; hard standings for caravans, picnic areas; canal and riverside pathways and roof gardens.

## Permeable ground reinforcement: cellular grid structures

Since the 2008 Flood and Water Management Act encouraged the uptake of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), and the subsequent

introduction of specific Supplementary Planning Guidance or Conditions (by planning authorities) to secure its implementation, the demand for grid structures has been steadily increasing.

**"The last few years in particular have seen a rise in the use of crushed rock or gravel within grid structures – resulting in a more stable area and reducing issues with loose gravel migrating into roads, pathways and drains"**

The last few years in particular have seen a rise in the use of crushed rock or gravel within grid structures – resulting in a more stable area and reducing issues with loose gravel migrating into roads, pathways and drains.

Grid structures can be used in three ways:

- Infilling with plants and/or grass – provides protection for vegetation, natural drainage and softens the look of a space.

- Infilling with crushed rock or gravel – provides a strong base capable of withstanding pedestrian and light vehicular traffic.
- A combination of filling with crushed rock or gravel and laying a permeable surface, such as resin bound paving, on top – provides a smooth surface easily trafficked by pedestrians and wheelchair users, bicycles, pushchairs and mobility scooters.

It also delivers an aesthetically pleasing durable surface that allows natural drainage. The permeable resin bound paving layer does not restrict flow through of surface water.

## Environmental benefits

Made from 100 per cent recycled material (HDPE), grid structures create a fully permeable reinforced stable base, without the need for a cementitious or bitumen based products.

HDPE is inert and stable, with an expected lifespan of over 50 years.

CIRIA, the leading body in SuDS research, states that a permeable surface can remove 60-95 per cent of suspended solids and 70-90 per cent of hydrocarbons.

With a grid structure being built-up rather





than excavated down, the no dig situation eliminates potential damage to trees and plants.

No digging and reducing the amount and type of infill a grid structure requires, reduces the need for heavy machinery. This has a knock on effect on pollution and the carbon footprint and minimises on-site disruption from dust, erosion and runoff.

The long-term design life of grid structures mean that maintenance, associated environmental and long-term environmental costs are significantly reduced.

## Key benefits

### You do not need planning permission

Since government legislation in 2008, planning permission is not required for areas less than 5m<sup>2</sup> or if the new surface is permeable.

### Strength

Grid structures can transfer loads across the interlocking units to reduce dynamic load impact from traffic, some up to 400t/m<sup>2</sup>.

### Compliant with SuDS

Capturing surface run-off and efficiently returning it back to the water table eliminates the need for traditional and often expensive drainage systems.

### Quicker, easier and cheaper to install

With no need to install a separate layer the 'dig down' time is reduced and without the need for heavy installation machinery and there is little to no noise pollution.

### Control of water run-off

Permeable surfaces allow water to pass into the underlying sub-base to be stored, channelled or dispersed into the ground, onto the next stage of SuDS or a drainage system.

## Laying a grid structure

The grids are installed with pegs that tie the cells together anchoring them in place or using a click-together system that connect the cells.

From the top down there are four layers to a fully permeable surface - each one a crucial part of the reinforcement and filtration system.

### First layer

Is the actual paving material i.e. permeable resin bound paving.

### Second layer

Is the in-filled crushed rock or gravel within the grid structure.

### Third layer

Is the sub-base and usually constructed from a free-draining material. The depth varies according to its planned use and conditions of the ground, but is generally between 75mm and 200mm.

For vehicular traffic, a Type 3 sub-base material can be used which has lower fines content when compared to traditional Type 1, which promotes drainage within the system. On projects where quicker drainage is required, the sub-base will most likely consist of coarser gravel.

### Fourth layer

After the removal of vegetation and debris, a level and compacted sub-grade is created. The sub-grade is the bottom layer over which a geo-textile membrane layer is installed to prevent the upward migration of fine soil particles.

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**“The long-term design life of grid structures mean that maintenance, associated environmental and long-term environmental costs are significantly reduced”**





## Grass Concrete's environmental edge



For commercial and housing developments in vulnerable flood risk areas Grasscrete is widely utilised for both its strong structural qualities up to 40-tonne traffic weight and natural SUDS qualities including water attenuation at a rate of 8m/second. Attenuation ponds incorporated with Grasscrete help both with vehicle access on site and also help retain storm water, reducing the peak demand on main sewer infrastructure while gaining a landscaped amenity. Grass Concrete Ltd's Grasscrete product has become the generic reference for permeable grass paving with in-built drainage and reinforcement qualities, now available in colour as Terratone, to match the landscaped environment. Lately there has been growing demand for vertical landscape options in urban areas. Today's garden and boundary walls now feature planting, colour, shape and textured finish. Grass Concrete Ltd offer a versatile range of called Betoconcept with a wide choice brings different shapes and styles to accommodate planting on high or low walls. With individual interlocking blocks and dry-build interconnectivity the range offers the ability to free-form wall layouts in single or terraced wall format. Visit the Grass Concrete website for more information.

01924 379443 [www.grasscrete.com](http://www.grasscrete.com)

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## Evinox Energy launch CIBSE accredited CPD seminar



With the increasing focus on district heating Evinox Energy has launched a CIBSE accredited CPD seminar, providing the opportunity to explore the topic in depth and identify new ways to add value, performance and efficiency. With over 13 years of experience in the Communal/District heating market, Evinox Energy has been involved in the design and supply of equipment for many projects for both private and social housing schemes. The company's seminar is entitled *Modern Communal Heating Installations – Key Considerations for an Effective System*. It is an informative and educational 60 minute seminar, ideal for M&E consultants, contractors, developers and housing associations, and covers topics including – Communal/District Heating Overview; Central Plant – The Energy Centre; Heat Interface Units; System Design & Regulations and Metering, Billing & Revenue Management. The seminar can be held at client's premises or at the Evinox Energy offices in Epsom, and at a time convenient to those attending. The speakers are highly experienced in communal heating with relevant professional qualifications. A certificate will be provided to all attendees for obtaining CIBSE CPD points.

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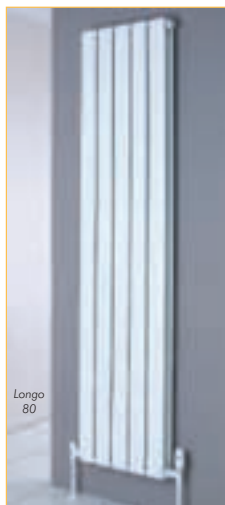
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## ALPHA2 – a solution that really adds up



It may look the same on the outside, but the new Grundfos ALPHA2 circulator has taken innovation to the next level. Achieved by delivering the best energy efficiency performance of any pump in its class, with an EEI rating of just 0.17. The good news doesn't end there – it also offers outstanding reliability, and the factory set AUTOadapT function makes it

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## Energy efficient small circulators



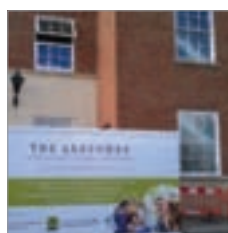
The **Wilo-Yonos PICO** has already won over large numbers of new homes developers that have switched to them for new build developments. Homeowners are seeing immediate energy savings and reductions in energy bills. These annual savings, combined with a comprehensive five year warranty make these a popular choice. Wilo-Yonos PICO is quick to

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## Vortice Leto fans used for Leasowes



Energy saving **Vortice Leto** fans have been used for a prestigious development in upmarket Dickens Heath, Solihull. Built in 2005 to high standards using simple Georgian styling, the building has been skilfully remodelled into an exclusive collection of 22 apartments and studios, including a fabulous penthouse with roof terrace and garden room. This

continuously running central extract fan has been particularly popular as it only has one break out of the building which maintains the look of the building facade.

01283 492949 [www.vortice.ltd.uk](http://www.vortice.ltd.uk)

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## Super low energy SIPs house 'riding' on Marmox ThermoBlock












A regional developer specialising in very low energy and PassivHaus projects is making use of the **Marmox ThermoBlock** structural insulation for the first time as part of a bespoke SIPs construction for a client in the East Riding of Yorkshire. RM Developments concentrates on building eco-friendly, mainly residential properties for individual clients using modern methods of construction with very high insulation standards and featuring renewable energy technologies including heat pumps and PV panels. Since Fabric Energy Efficiency Standards (FEES) were incorporated in Part L of the Building Regulations, ThermoBlock is increasingly being used by specifiers to tackle thermal linear losses at both the ground floor and upper level junctions. Its composite construction does this by surrounding micro-columns of concrete with high performance insulation to create a horizontal barrier to heat loss. Using the 'default value' in Building Regulations incurs a heavy penalty under SAP which is why specifiers are routinely adopting Approved Construction Details (ACD) or Enhanced Construction Details (ECD). Significantly switching from an ACD to using ThermoBlock can reduce carbon losses by some 90 per cent: offering a very rapid pay-back on using the product.

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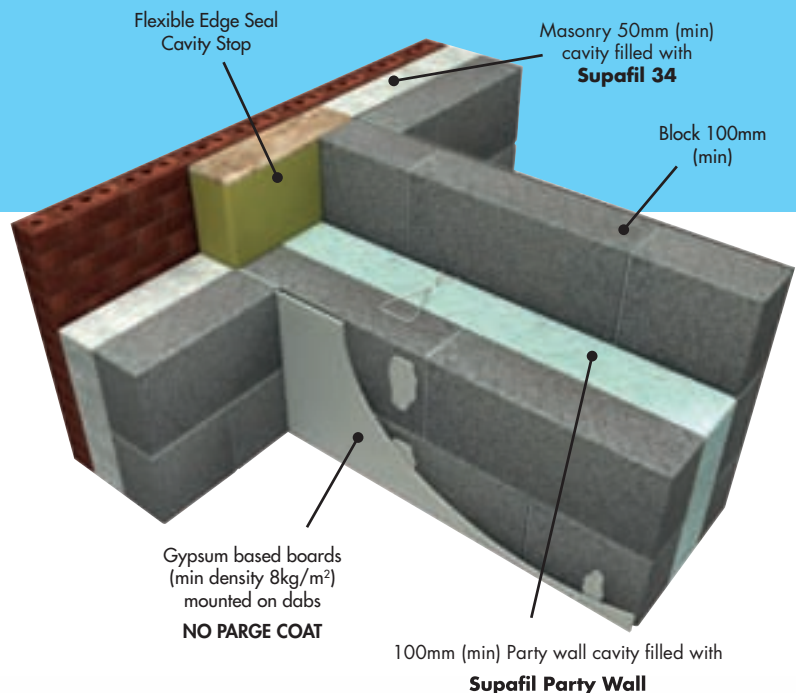
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# All the fun of the Trade Fair!

It's just a couple of months before PLANTWORX construction equipment machinery exhibition throws open its doors to construction industry professionals. The PLANTWORX team is in top gear and going at full throttle in preparation for the forthcoming show at Bruntingthorpe Aerodrome, Leicestershire from 2 – 4 June

The event which is being organised and promoted by the CEA (Construction Equipment Association) will be the UK's largest 'working' construction equipment event spanning over 100,000 square metres. Visitors to the show will see the very latest plant and machinery operating in 'real' site conditions – compact plant will feature alongside mid-range equipment. Many exhibitors will be encouraging visitors, who present the correct operator's licence, to try the kit first hand and put the machines through their paces on one of the many demonstration areas. Visitors will also see hundreds of brand new products including many world-firsts.

The UK's largest 'working' construction event has at last count 275 exhibitors committed to the show and of these more than 121 (44 per cent) will be exhibiting at the event for the very first time. In terms of size and exhibitors numbers the 2015 show has already exceeded the 2013 exhibition and with just under two-months until the event the Plantworx team is expecting the show to be a 'sell out' and is already almost 90 per cent sold – making this event the hottest ticket in town and a spectacular action packed 3-days.

Earthmoving machinery plays a huge role at the show and the majority of the key players in the construction equipment market will be showing and demonstrating their machines from

mini's, midi's, and heavy line to breakers, dumpers and dozers – many exhibitors have already confirmed they have brand new kit to show off.

Visitors looking to see kit in action need look no further than; A & Y Equipment (Ammann & Yanmar), Altrad Belle, Auger Torque, Avant Tecno, Case Construction, Finning/Cat, Hanix Europe, Hyundai Heavy Industries Europe, JCB, LiuGong, Marubeni Komatsu, Miller UK, Takeuchi, Terex, Volvo Construction Equipment, Wacker Neuson and Whites Material Handling. A full list of exhibitors with demo plots can be found on the website.

Where there's earthmoving machinery there'll be attachments and Plantworx 2015 has got this area well covered. From augers to buckets; from quick hitches to rakes, blades and grabs, visitors will find an attachment for every application at the show. Ag Con/Steel Wrist, Auger Torque Europe, BA Caulkett, BPH Attachments, Digbits, EGY Haulmark, Engcon, Hill Engineering, Humech Attachments Miller UK, Northern Track and Viby Attachments are just some of the confirmed attachment manufacturers at the show.

Tool companies, lighting, generators and welfare cabin manufacturers have also come out in force to support Plantworx. Bosch is the latest tool company to book its stand alongside Fairport Construction, Multiquip (UK), LBW Machines Probst Handling and Altrad Belle. Lighting and generator companies include Towerlight UK and Morris Site Machinery.

Transport was an area of Plantworx that visitors from the 2013 event wanted to see expand and the 2015 event will see more of these companies taking part – on both static and demonstrating. AJC Trailers, Bateson Trailers,



Brian James Trailers, Goldhofer, Ifor Williams Trailers, Isuzu Trucks UK, King Trailers, Macs Truck Sales, Nooteboom Trailers, Nugent Trailers and Shawtrack Services have already booked their stand space.

Site Clearance is an area of the show which has been expanded to include demolition, recycling and site clearing machinery as well as a 'shared demo plot'. Exhibitors confirmed in this area include remote controlled demolition machine manufacturer Brokk UK, Riverside Machinery, Red Rhino Crushers and Worsley Plant. Look out too for Northerntrack and EGY Haulmark.

The CEA announced earlier on in the year that on the final afternoon of the show (12 pm – 4pm Thursday 4 June) the organisers of the event, in association with the CPA (Construction Plant-hire Association) are inviting students and teachers from primary and secondary schools and colleges to visit the show and get a taste of the Construction Equipment Sector. Trade visitors are also invited to bring along younger family members to the show.



**Visitor registration is now open for PLANTWORX and entry is free. For more details and to see a full exhibitor list visit [www.plantworx.co.uk](http://www.plantworx.co.uk)**

## Designer Contracts expands range



Designer Contracts has expanded its already extensive lighting packages with three new quality ranges – Select, Supreme and one dedicated to low energy. Select is an excellent value package and includes elegant and contemporary lighting essentials. Supreme offers prestige and opulent light fittings aimed at the luxurious end of the market. Both

collections comprise energy efficient and low energy LED ceiling light fittings. The low energy range is a combination of Select and Supreme and comes with dedicated low energy LED bulbs.

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## Product Bytes

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Next generation technology simplifying fire safety...

Ref: 21248

## Safe as houses with Kidde



Kidde customer Place Group UK is one of the first private landlords to be awarded the respected DASH Landlord Accreditation in Lincoln. All Place Group properties are protected by hard-wired Kidde smoke, heat and CO alarms with back-up power. The aim of DASH accreditation is to encourage and promote good property standards and management practices in the private rental sector and the City of Lincoln Council now endorses and promotes the scheme. The DASH Property Standard, which accredited landlords must adhere to, refers to the 'Housing Health and Safety Rating System' (HHSRS). This identifies both fire and carbon monoxide poisoning as primary risks and stresses the importance of fitting appropriate alarms – top of Place Group's list of priorities. In all the Lincoln properties, Kidde's Firex range has been installed and every studio bedroom now has its own smoke and heat alarm. All kitchens and food preparation areas also have heat alarms, linked to those in each bedroom. In addition, Firex smoke alarms protect escape routes and boiler rooms and Kidde's hard-wired CO alarms are installed on each floor. Place Group CEO Rob Hunter commented: "We chose Kidde because there is no second chance to get it right with refurbishment."

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# How to ensure fire door compliance

When it comes to fitting a fire door, it is important to ensure it provides the highest levels of protection and meets fire door regulations. To guarantee this, there are a number of factors that need to be considered including the correct specification and installation of the door and its hardware components.

With this in mind, Martin Smith, product manager at IronmongeryDirect, explains how best to select and install fire doors and door closers in order to deliver optimum levels of safety compliance

**F**ire doors are essential in all public buildings including flats, social housing and residential premises to make sure that they are safe for occupants, and meet the required standards.

However, if doors and accompanying ironmongery components aren't correctly fitted or there is a lack of attention paid to product certification when a house is being built, problems can occur. Fire doors that fail to perform properly when required, particularly in buildings with high footfall such as apartment blocks, put the lives of the occupants at great risk – so it's important to get it right.

When constructing a property, trade professionals have a moral and legal duty to ensure that appropriate fire doors are used. During the process of selecting the most suitable door, the width, height and what the door will be made of needs to be carefully considered. Fire doors can be made from a variety of materials such as steel, aluminium or wood, and some even include glass sections. Choosing the right door will usually depend on the location in which it will be installed within the home.

There are also building regulations that need to be taken into account when it comes to installing fire doors. For instance, fire doors in

public buildings have to adhere to BS8300 Equality Act and Part M of Buildings Regulations, which states that there has to be ease of access throughout the entire building.

Along with selecting the correct fire door to use, it is just as vital to specify the best door closer to accompany it. Automatic closing devices operate to ensure that doors close properly to prevent the spread of fire. It is important to ensure that the door closer has the correct power size grade. This is based on the weight and width of the

door. Door closers that are attached to fire doors must have a minimum power size of three. As closers for fire doors have a critical safety function, they must be able to overcome any resistance from locks, latches or sealing systems that are present on the door and must be able to close the door from any angle. They should also be CE marked to BS EN 1154 including annex A.

Automatic closing devices can, however, present issues for particular groups of people



**“Fire doors can be made from a variety of materials such as steel, aluminium or wood, and some even include glass sections”**

such as children, the elderly or the disabled who may be unable to open the door. It can also be difficult to ensure that fire doors are kept closed, especially in high traffic areas such as corridors and entrances to the property. In these scenarios electrically powered hold-open devices can be used to keep a self-closing fire door open. It is important to note that only electrically powered devices are allowed and the door closer must not include any other hold-open devices.

Other vital components that should be considered during the installation process include smoke seals and brushes. Intumescent fire and smoke seals prevent fire from escaping through the door frame by expanding at around 100°C to several times their original size.

It is also important to ensure that all of the features operate safely after installation as failing

**“Automatic closing devices can, however, present issues for particular groups of people such as children, the elderly or the disabled who may be unable to open the door”**



to carry out these checks can be hazardous to anyone residing or visiting the property. Mechanical checks can be used to test hardware features to ensure that they perform effectively. For example, fire door closers need to work unaided – if you have to help it along then it's not

working properly and this needs to be put right. Neglecting to carry out these checks can result in liability and a good tradesman has a duty to ensure the fire door offers the highest levels of protection to residents and remains in good working condition for years to come.

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# Plumis Automist saves the day

**T**ruffle, a London-based property developer recently undertook the refurbishment of a three-storey Victorian terraced house in Hammersmith. The project's architect and historic building consultant, Peter Powlesland knew that ordinarily, a protected fire escape route would have been required by Hammersmith Building Control. However, Peter's client wanted an open-plan lowest floor with no separation at all between the large kitchen living room and the staircase; in other words, without a protected route to the front door on the floor above, and thence to the street.

Building Control was, initially, adamant that a protected route would be required; however, the building control officer suggested that Peter should investigate Plumis Automist as a possible solution to the impasse. The Automist system uses a high pressure pump to generate a fine water mist from nozzles mounted under a standard monobloc mixing tap, standalone on a work-top or on a wall that rapidly suppresses a fire and thereby provides sufficient protection to satisfy the building control requirements of many

applications. It's connected to the domestic water supply and requires no tank and much less water than traditional sprinklers. The need for significantly less pipe-work and the prevention of potentially devastating home damage in the event of fire by suppressing flames and thus limiting smoke and heat were further compelling reasons for choosing Automist. Elite Fire Safety are the principal accredited installers for Plumis Automist in the London area and in this case they fitted the system comprising of two pumps, associated hoses and spray-heads in an under-stair cupboard at lower ground-floor level in just one day.

Peter had never tried the innovative fire protection solution before but he says he would readily use it again. "The spray-heads were very discreet and did not impinge on our design. The District Surveyor was very happy with it and it was very good value for money. The value of 25 New Kings Road has increased a great deal thanks to Automist which allowed us to complete the open plan design, which is currently so much in demand by property buyers. In short,



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# Social standards

Design standards for affordable housing in London often clash with what has been approved during planning. To avoid costly redesigns, Simon Hansard of Ashby Design says planners and developers must consider these standards at the very outset of a project

**A**ffordable housing can present some of the most challenging and yet rewarding work for a designer.

Whether working on a housing association site or the affordable element of a private development, designing social housing usually means dealing with both budget and space constraints.

However, that should never be an excuse for scrimping on quality of design. Just because it is a product that won't be sold for profit doesn't mean developers and their architectural advisers shouldn't aspire to excellence in design.

Indeed, very often quality design is even more necessary in affordable housing, especially when it comes to the living space: these units will often

be occupied by people who are out of work and so spending the majority of their time in them; occupants may also have some form of disability, meaning it is crucial that we don't discriminate through poor design and create spaces that are unlivable.

In the country's most cramped space of all – the capital – the London Housing Design Guide (LHDG) was introduced to ensure that both private and social housing delivered quality living space, and not the kind of cramped living conditions that London Mayor Boris Johnson referred to as “Hobbit Homes”.

While the LHDG is not yet mandatory for housing developments in all London boroughs, some boroughs have adopted it as part of their planning criteria, and all housing associations developing sites in the capital must adhere to LHDG to meet their government funding requirements.

However, because the LHDG is not yet enshrined in planning law, there is often a clash between the kind of sites that receive planning permission and the kind of sites that are required to meet LHDG standards.

Typically, a landowner will obtain planning permission for a site and then sell it on to a housing association or private developer.

The kind of basic design that makes it through planning rarely lives up to the standards in the design guide, and so the housebuilder will come

**“Very often quality design is even more necessary in affordable housing, especially when it comes to the living space: these units will often be occupied by people who are out of work and so spending the majority of their time in them”**

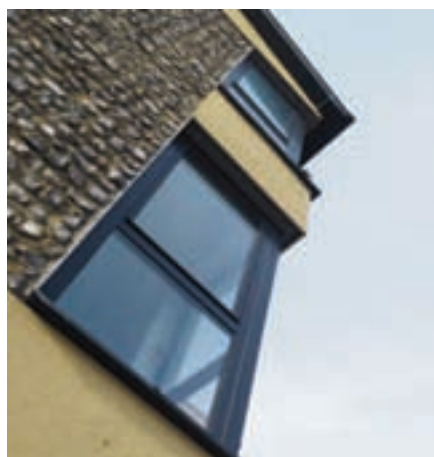
to an architectural solutions company to bring the project up to standard.

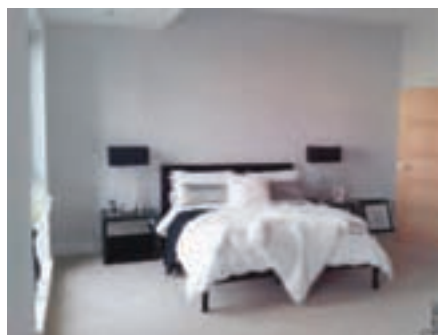
The two areas where design standards are typically lacking are amenity space and the living space.

For example, the LHDG requires a minimum of 5m<sup>2</sup> of private amenity space for dwellings of one to two people, with another 1m<sup>2</sup> for each extra person after this.

Typically in London on a block of flats this private space will be a balcony.

With each balcony having to be a certain size relating to the occupancy, it is not only the space planning of the unit that is affected, but also the planning permission, as creating balconies of varying sizes will change the aesthetic of the building and lead to amendments of the





approved planning drawings and a subsequently additional planning work.

Going back to the planners will add both time and cost to the project. Such problems can be multiplied once the impact of the LHDG on internal layouts is considered.

The LHDG sets out “Essential Gross Internal Area (GIA)” for each dwelling based on the number of bedrooms, occupants and storeys. For example, a single story flat with two bedrooms for three people has an Essential GIA of 61m<sup>2</sup>.

In addition to this required total floorspace, there are criteria for every room and area within the property, such as minimum sizes of hallways and bedrooms.

Assuming the GIAs are adequate, the first instinct in tackling internal living spaces that fall short of the design guide – for example individual room areas – involves shifting the internal walls.

However, going down this road can mean increasing build costs, especially if the walls being moved are party walls or part of the structural integrity of the building.

Rather than move walls around, another consideration may be to change the occupancy levels of a property.

This will obviously carry a significant cost implication, although this need not always mean

**“If good design was considered at the very start of every housing project, before a single boot has stepped on site, then tenants would benefit from better living standards both in the private sector and with housing associations alike, and all could see their build costs tumble”**

an increase in costs: it has been found that occupancy levels of units can go both up and down as the designs are refined to meet the standards.

If the occupancy level goes up, then the housing association is able to accommodate more tenants.

Obviously if the occupancy goes down then the opposite is true, and this will have an impact on the housing association's budget.

One positive note in such a situation is that the association may be able to save costs in other areas that will help to mitigate this lower

occupancy level, such as negotiating down the level of payments that need to be made towards local infrastructure under a project's Section 106 Agreement.

However, all of this reworking, redesigning, and multiple visits to planners is really just treating the symptoms of a failure to think about design standards at the inception of a project.

Architectural solutions companies are typically asked to review projects and redesign for compliance purposes to see if the development is potentially suitable for a housing association, and usually up to this point little thought has been given to the design standards, other than that they will be something the project will have to meet.

If the LHDG was rolled out across all London boroughs – indeed if a national design guide was handed to every council in the country for both private and social housing – and made a mandatory criteria for granting planning consent, then most, if not all of these clashes could be eradicated.

If good design was considered at the very start of every housing project, before a single boot has stepped on site, then tenants would benefit from better living standards both in the private sector and with housing associations alike, and all could see their build costs tumble.

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## Dates announced for roadshow



Mitsubishi Electric has announced dates for a nationwide roadshow targeting social housing providers who need to hit renewable targets and find ways of combating fuel poverty amongst tenants. The free, half day events are designed to help housing associations, ALMOs and local authorities by providing access to the latest information on legislation, the

renewable heat incentive and general advice on how to engage tenants in the process. Starting in Cardiff on 7 July and ending in Derby on 24 September, the nationwide seminars offer expert advice.

01707 282880 [www.mitsubishielectricevents.co.uk](http://www.mitsubishielectricevents.co.uk)

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## New role for Public Sector Housing



Highly experienced sales professional, Kevin O'Donnell, has joined vinyl flooring manufacturer, **Gerflor Ltd**, in a new role as National Sales Manager for Public Sector Housing in the UK. The appointment of a social housing sector specialist is intended to strengthen Gerflor's housing team, support its customer base and drive business forward.

Formerly National Sales Manager for Twyford Bathrooms, Kevin has spent his working life primarily in residential sales roles, focused on new build and refurbishment within social and private sector housing.

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## Architectural feature design specialists



**Flight Design** specialises in the design and installation of architectural features such as staircases, balustrade, mezzanine floors and furniture. The company undertakes work for both residential and commercial projects, working with architects and interior designers, as well as private clients. It can work with a wide range of materials, and looks to stretch the

boundaries of both materials and design, to produce fascinating structures. Every installation is bespoke, and carefully built in the company's workshop to your specifications. For more information, please visit Flight Design's website.

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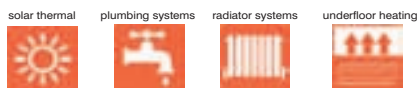
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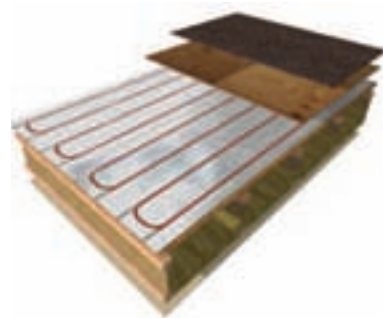
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# Underfloor heating – the shift from luxury to mainstream

By Rob Ewels, business unit manager at REHAU underfloor heating



For many years, underfloor heating was largely the preserve of the luxury end of the housebuilder market, where there was a sense among developers that they could meet buyers' expectations for a high specification and at the same time justify the additional cost through a higher purchase price.

Independent Research among medium sized housebuilders shows that 84 per cent of companies building four-bedroom and luxury properties have used underfloor heating, compared with just 27 per cent of those building semi-detached and terraced properties.

However, over the last couple of years there has been a subtle shift taking place amongst developers as the use of underfloor heating has begun to filter down beyond the luxury and towards the mainstream.

At the end of 2013, 52 per cent of the companies we questioned were using underfloor heating or had used it during the previous 12 months, 18 per cent had used it more than 12 months before and a further 6 per cent were planning to use it in the near future.

On top of this, at that point almost 40 per cent of these companies expected to increase their use of underfloor heating over the coming two years.

The reasons are very easy to understand. Housebuilders believe that it adds to the appeal of high value homes, while at the same time helping them to win the sale. It also of course gives greater flexibility in terms of space with none of the design restrictions imposed by radiators, and offers better comfort levels than radiators with the heat being concentrated in the occupied space.

**“Over the last couple of years there has been a subtle shift taking place among developers as the use of underfloor heating has begun to filter down beyond the luxury and towards the mainstream”**





There are different types of underfloor heating of course – piped water and electric, with electric systems largely being confined to use in bathrooms in new build properties.

Crucially, it is piped underfloor heating which can be used with renewable energy sources –

in fact it is the perfect partner for a heat pump because it works well with the low flow and return temperatures being generated.

Although only a very small number of new build houses – less than 10 per cent – currently use heat pumps, the figure is obviously growing as legislative pressure to deliver more energy efficient homes and consumer demand for lower running costs impact on developers.

**“As well as making systems easier and more cost effective to install, the latest underfloor heating systems are also more focused on the requirements of the home owner”**

In fact, research showed that the need to satisfy higher energy efficiency codes is one of the key drivers behind the increase in underfloor heating specifications.

Another key driver is the introduction of user friendly systems which are easier to install and which allow the installation of piped water systems with timber joists.

New systems are being brought to the market

that minimise increase in floor height and are simple for existing trades to install. With joist spacings of 600mm common among house-builders, a solution that ensures structural integrity without impacting on floor height is a recent introduction to the market.

As well as making systems easier and more cost effective to install, the latest underfloor heating systems are also more focused on the requirements of the home owner, with features which make them more appealing and in turn easier to sell to potential home buyers.

For example, some systems have easy to understand individual room controls which directly replace the radiator controls you would normally see. By also eliminating the need for a manifold or additional electrical installation in every room, this means a direct swap from radiators to underfloor heating with the same flow and return pipework is finally becoming possible.

In the future, we may well see housing designs where underfloor heating can be offered as an ‘up sell’ to the homeowner as it becomes possible to switch from a radiator to an underfloor heating installation very late in the build programme.

In conclusion, housebuilders are calling for easy to adopt, simple and quick to install underfloor heating systems. The market is responding and new systems and innovations are making this possible for the first time.

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## Timóleon saves 18<sup>th</sup> century barn from the sledge-hammers



Property programmes such as *Grand Designs* or *Restoration Man* frequently show scenes of building owners or their contractors taking sledgehammers to demolish the internal walls and floors of old properties. Imagine the feelings of the family in Cambridgeshire, who were told that their immaculately restored, Grade II listed home had to be virtually gutted due to a problem with the heating system. Thankfully, the owners decided to seek another opinion. Although Pure Plumbing and Heating of Cambridge company's director, Steve Dunn, was of the same opinion that the existing underfloor heating system needed to be replaced, he had also got past experience of the underfloor heating range manufactured by **Timóleon** and believed the manufacturer's systems offered a far more convenient as well as a considerably more economic alternative. As a result, the owners of the barn did not have to watch the place being ripped apart. The carpet fitters took up the existing carpets and suspended the rolls from the ornate trusses which divide the tall living space. Then with the 8 x 2 inch joists exposed the engineers were able to insert insulation batts between them ready to begin installation of Timóleon's **ToronFloor** system. As a key element to the Timóleon's Underfloor Heating Products range, **ToronFloor** presents a rapidly laid and versatile approach to fitting pipework.

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