

# Green Construction Roundup

## June, 2008 No. 172

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### **Construction News**

#### **NHBC man to head new eco delivery body**

A partial resolve in the stand-off between housebuilders and environmentalists over the move to zero-carbon homes has been made, with the appointment of an interim executive team to head a new delivery body.

*Building*. 27 June (Pg. 13)

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?storyCode=3116851>

#### **Architects to take lead in zero carbon schools drive**

Leading architects Robin Nicholson, Peter Clegg and Irena Bauman are to sit on a government panel helping to ensure that all new schools are zero carbon by 2016

The 'zero-carbon task force' will recommend ways of making sure all new-build schools meet the target, including those under the Building Schools for the Future scheme.

*Building Design*. 27 June (Pg. 6)

<http://www.bdonline.co.uk/story.asp?storyCode=3116948>

#### **Lack of green inspectors threatens green law**

The Energy Performance of Buildings directive requires that 20,000 air-conditioning systems be inspected in the next six months. But according to CIBSE, only a handful of applicants are going through the system. It has currently only certified two.

*Building*. 06 June (Pg. 12)

[http://www.building.co.uk/sustain\\_story.asp?sectioncode=29&storycode=3115280](http://www.building.co.uk/sustain_story.asp?sectioncode=29&storycode=3115280)

#### **Architects face extinction**

Paul King, the head of the UK Green Building Council (UK-GBC), has warned that architects could be virtually facing extinction, unless dramatic changes are made in the industry to combat climate change.

*Architects Journal*. 05 June (Pg. 10)

[http://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/dailynews/2008/06/architects\\_face\\_extinction\\_says\\_ukgbc\\_head.htm](http://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/dailynews/2008/06/architects_face_extinction_says_ukgbc_head.htm)

#### **EPC prices fluctuating wildly**

Fledgling prices for energy performance certificates are showing huge variations, property clients are claiming. Quotes are currently varying between £2,000 and £15,000 for a 15,000m<sup>2</sup> building, according to one engineering consultancy.

The building concerned was about 20 years old with a more-than-average amount of ready information.

*Building Services Journal*. June 2008 (Pg. 9)

<http://www.bsjonline.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3114562>

## **Periodical Articles**

### **Lessons in zero carbon**

A primary school set in rolling green pasture with spacious classrooms which open out onto their own landscaped gardens? At Dartington in Devon, this vision of a high-quality educational environment is coming to life. Architect White Design hopes that Dartington Primary will be the UK's first zero-carbon school.

A key factor in achieving this is that 90% of the school will be made from solid timber panels manufactured by Eurban. The panels will contribute to the walls and roofs of the three new classroom clusters and the resource cluster, which includes the school hall, music room and staff facilities.

Article looking at White Architects' response to the brief, which was to design the classrooms as independent units within a landscaped site.

*Building Design*. 27 June (Pg. 18-19)

[http://www.bdonline.co.uk/sustain\\_story.asp?sectioncode=453&storycode=3116702](http://www.bdonline.co.uk/sustain_story.asp?sectioncode=453&storycode=3116702)

### **Off site manufacture: Beam me up scotty**

Erecting a straw-bale school building in three days may sound like a frontier too far, but an innovative off-site manufacturing system using timber panels brought dramatic savings in time. Article looking at the process, which involved slotting standard 500mm-wide straw bales into a structured timber frame.

*Building*. 20/06/08 P80-81

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=3116428>

### **Sustainability in practice**

Designing sustainable offices is an important issue in the green agenda. This edition of Sustainability in practice presents two exemplar projects and interviews with two sustainability experts. The buildings are the Loch Lomond National Park authority, with its innovative greenwood frame; and the Innovate Green office, in Leeds, probably the UK's greenest office. The expert interviews are with Lynne Sullivan, head of building design at Inbuilt; and Bill Gething, on how to install solar panels.

*Architects Journal*. 12 June (Pg. 41-54)

### **Land of plenty**

The Three Gardens affordable housing project, in Suffolk, has been constructed to have very low in-use and embodied carbon emissions and is constructed utilising local products, such as wool, Hemcrete and timber.

Article looking at the green credentials of the 26 home scheme at Elmswell, in Suffolk, including the innovative use of whole-house ventilation with heat recovery, powered by a biomass fired community heating system.

*Building Services Journal*. June 2008 (Pg. 14-15)

### **Pride of place**

Leigh Technology Academy, Dartford is a successful school design that doesn't look like a school. The school's chief executive and teachers insisted on a sustainable structure that also fostered strong student belonging, to assist learning and morale.

This article looks at the result; a low-energy building that relies on mechanically assisted ventilation of naturally cooled air using no chillers and virtually no mechanical heating. Further cooling is achieved by passing air through tubes buried in the earth.

*Building Services Journal*. June 2008 (Pg. 30-34)

<http://www.bsjonline.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=93&storycode=3114415>

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