# i-build



**July 18** Issue 48

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Editorial:
Paige Smith
paige@mixedmediainfo.com

Rebecca Kemp rebecca@mixedmediainfo.com

Print & Digital Advertising: Sam Ball sam@mixedmediainfo.com

Grant Jeffs grant@mixedmediainfo.com

Print Design Manager:

Jack Witcomb jack@mixedmediainfo.com

Digital Design Manager:

David Perry david@mixedmediainfo.com

**Production Assistant:** 

Sofia Franchi sofia@mixedmediainfo.com

Accounts:

Jackie Dearman jackie@mixedmediainfo.com

Managing Director: Sam Ball sam@mixedmediainfo.com



Pear Platt, Woodfalls Farm, Gravelly Way Laddingford, Kent, ME18 6DA T: 01622 873229 F: 01622 320020 www.mixedmediainfo.com

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Cover story: Desmond & Sons provides guidance on how to pick the design for a cinema room. See page 44.



For some, the idea of creating their dream home abroad seems like a daunting task. But sometimes the desire to create a peaceful retreat in a picturesque setting is too strong to ignore, despite the challenges that may lie ahead.

This month, i-build travels to the stunning Pyrenees to uncover an extremely exciting self-build project at the entrance to the village of Avajan. Whilst working in the Alps as a Ski Instructor and Mountain Guide, James Dealtry visited an abundance of the luxurious chalets in the resort which blew him away. Their sheer beauty, and robustness, but also how well they fitted into the landscape really appealed to him, and he told himself that one day he would own his own mountain lodge. His search for the perfect project led him to the gorgeous Pyrenees, where he discovered a very traditional Pyrenean stonebuilt building, dating back to 1854 which was once the village post office. To follow James' journey, turn to page 23.

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Elsewhere in this issue, Simon Tilbrook,
Director at Fenwick & Tilbrook, gives his top
tips on paint types for your self-build. Turn to
page 28 to discover how to use paint correctly
to add the finishing touch to the final stage
of your build. Apropos runs through all the
options you have when choosing the right
glass extension. Turn to page 36 to take a look
at the pros and cons of each, and on page 16,
i-build looks at the importance of using the
right tools to finish your project.

I hope you enjoy this issue. Don't forget, if you're coming to the end of your self-build and would like us to feature your home as inspiration for other budding house-builders, then please do not hesitate to get in touch. Alternatively, if you're about to embark on your self-build journey and would be keen for us to document your progress, do get in contact.

Paige

paige@mixedmediainfo.com

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Kensa launches new pricing tools for self-builders: See page 46
National Ventilation will be returning to the Homebuilding and Renovating Show 2018: See page 47
DRU introduces new contemporary wood stoves: See page 48













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## July 2018

















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# A trend to be dotty about

Spots and polka dots are bound to inject some fun and youthfulness into any interior scheme. But if you're worried this playful pattern is not suitable for a mature interior, you're wrong.

olka dots no longer need to be seen as too juvenile to grace the interior of any room other than a children's play area. The trend has matured. All you need to do is pick the right dot for the perfect spot in your self-build and you're guaranteed to fall in love with this trend. The smaller the dots, the more sophisticated the pattern appears. From a distance, tiny dots can look more like an elegant texture - a modest way to incorporate this trend. An animal print is a fun and stylish alternative to your usual polka dot pattern and will help add a splash of playfulness to your self-build scheme. For a chic and classy look that is subtle and understated, choose a classic black and white dot. However, if you're searching for a classic look with a twist, invest in some navy and white dotty accessories instead. Polka dots have been prominent in the fashion world for centuries, now it's time to welcome them into your home.

- 1. Poppi plate, Abode Living, £15.50
- 2. Dondolo vas
- Leopard money box, AUDENZA, £68
- 4. Polka dot vases
- 5. Gold dots cushion cover.
- 6. Elle Umlaza armchair.
- 7. Eddy ivory and black circular rug Modern Rugs. £49
- 8. Garland silk cushion
- 9. Maggie loveseat.
- 10. Jean Christophe Bernard Acrila Cali chair. The Longest Stay, £699











- 1. Painted dot mustard yellow, £9.99
- 2. Painted dot orange roomset, £9.99
- 3. Tribal indigo wallpaper, £16.99
- 4. Tribal charcoal wallpaper, £16.99



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Arthouse

## Marvellous mugs

Since 2000, Arthouse has been designing trend-led

An easy and subtle way to add this trend to your self-build's kitchen.



- Marimekko Siirtolapuutarha tea cup, Abode Living, £14.50
  - Blue dots ceramic mug. The Contemporary Home, £6
- 3. Poppi cup, Abode Living, £6.95
- Katie Alice cottage flower mug, Creative Tops, £6















Really rustic



## A traditional touch

Bring the outdoors into your self-build and create your own urban jungle with these eco-friendly hanging baskets. Handwoven by artisans in Morocco from natural palm leaves with twisted hanging cords, these traditional artisanal plant pots come in four sizes.





## Bembridge baskets

This set of two Bernbridge baskets are crafted in Kubu rattan and will be the perfect addition to your self-build to store logs by the fire.

(www.gardentrading.co.uk)





## Stylish storage solution

These adorable jute baskets make excellent storage solutions, whether it's for the children's toys, or for storing your winter throws in the summer months - every self-build needs some.

(www.sweetpeaandwillow.com)





## Attractive zigzags

Made from seagrass with a natural and black zigzag pattern, this set of two baskets features two different sizes, each with two simple black handles. Perfect for storing towels or laundry, these attractive baskets will be useful in any room of your home.

(www.coxandcox.co.uk)





## Vintage style

Made from wood with a grey washed painted finish, this storage unit comes with two wicker baskets - each lined with a white linen cover. Perfect for extra storage in a bathroom or conservatory.

(www.windsorbrowne.co.uk)



These handwoven fringed storage baskets are

or as extra storage around the home.

handcrafted using long pieces of palm leaf to create a decorative fringed surface. A cool home for houseplants, use them as statement planters









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These cute dog-themed accessories will make a statement in any room.

## Dashing

What a dashing chap this gold decorative dachshund is. So regal and haughty, but with an appealing wistfulness. The perfect way to bring some humour to your decor, and a touch of gold, of course.

(www.audenza.com)





## Perfectly playful

This playful animal lamp has a unique and fun red design. The lamp diffuses a soft light, ideal to accompany your child during the night.

(www.nedgis.com)







## Garden fun

Bring some fun into your garden with this sausage dog garden bench. Making a decorative feature, this lovely bench will look great on the patio to provide extra seating at a summer BBQ or garden party.





## Quirky and cute

These quirky hooks will make a great vintage-style addition to your brand-new self-build. A fantastic way to add a bit of character to your walls.

Image ©ARTHOUSE



## Bright and beautiful

Perfect for outdoor or indoor use, this bright and beautiful bulldog statue promises to be the flawless addition that your self-build needs.

(www.ksl-living.fr)





## A bit bonkers

Bonkers and inspired in equal measure, this cushion is both glamorous and quirky. Dogs, leopard print, velvet - this is a truly statement-making cushion, that has it all in perfect dazzling equilibrium.









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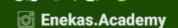
Featuring diverse and inspirational projects alongside the latest news, events and products, i-build is the comprehensive guide for planning, designing, building and decorating individual homes.



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# Meeting the needs of people on the Right to Build register

At the Right to Build Expo Exeter, the Right to Build Task Force announced that Teignbridge District Council and its GESP partners are to trial a new custom- and self-build evidence tool for planners.



he Right to Build Task Force has announced its latest significant piece of work to support customand self-build, in association with Teignbridge District Council and its GESP (Greater Exeter Strategic Plan) partners. The announcement was made at the 'Right to Build Expo: Unlocking the Potential of Custom & Self Build Housing' held in Exeter.

Teignbridge District Council is working with the Task Force to identify several opportunities to create more serviced building plots to meet the needs of people on its Right to Build register. As part of this work, Teignbridge District Council and its GESP partners will be the first local authorities to pilot a new evidence tool to plan for longer-term custom- and selfbuild housing demand.

The tool is to be piloted for the Greater Exeter sub-region involving East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon, Devon County Council and Teignbridge. It will help inform the preparation of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan and is designed to give local authorities a means of assessing a longer-term view of custom- and self-build demand and support their planning for serviced building plots. To develop the tool, the Task Force has partnered with planning consultancy Three Dragons.

The tool will act as an additional source of evidence to supplement the short-term picture that the Right to Build registers present of local demand for plots under the Government's Right to Build legislation. This will enable local authorities to effectively measure demand on a longer timescale. This will enable them to plan confidently for custom- and self-build housing, helping them make informed planning decisions, as required by National Planning Policy.

The tool provides estimates of the demand for custom- and self-build by district/housing market area, with outputs summarised in a report that includes:

- The legislative context and national policy expectations
- The local authority policy position including relevant information from Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMAs) and the local authority's demand register
- An assessment of custom- and selfbuild demand for the local area, with recommendations for actions and steps the organisation could take to meet this demand.







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Seven tips to make the most out of rainwater harvesting

The UK has around 133 days of rainfall each year. We all largely moan about the rain, but we could use it to save a significant amount of water and money. It is for this reason that rainwater harvesting is becoming increasingly popular in new-build construction for housing, agriculture and industry.

ainwater harvesting is the collection and storage of rain which falls onto the roof of a property. If you are considering using rainwater harvesting to supplement your mains water supply, James Shenton - General Manager at rainwater harvesting tank manufacturer Tuffa Tanks - shares his top tips.

## Clean out your gutters

A good place to start is the gutter. Make sure these are clear and free from leaves or debris which might impede the flow of rain from the roof to the downspout. To help ensure this, flush out your downspouts with water to remove any blockages on the angles.

Next, you might have to install additional pipework or a rainwater diverter to channel the water from the downspout to your rainwater storage. Although this sounds like a costly investment, a diverter sometimes comes with a purpose-built tank.

## Do you choose to store water above or below ground?

You'll need to consider whether you want an above-ground tank near to your property or below-ground water storage. There are pros and cons to both but, generally, an above-ground tank will be easier to use and access for inspections and maintenance while the below-ground tank is more expensive to install, requiring excavation and additional pipework.

## Invest in a good quality system

You get what you pay for. Select a tank from a renowned manufacturer with a good track record in providing reliable and, if possible, purpose-built systems.

When shopping around, you want to look for tanks which at least have large capacities as well as filtration and pump options to give a regular, pressurised water supply.

However, we would also recommend systems which are manufactured from recyclable polythene, require limited maintenance, corrosion resistant and UV stabilised.

## On the subject of capacity

The average water butt will hold between 100 to 300 litres. Although this sounds good enough, you might actually need more - depending on your requirements. During













#### Rainwater filter diverter:

The filter diverts the water from the rooftop into the storage tank, as the water passes through the unit, dirt and debris is removed.



#### Calmed inlet:

The calmed inlet introduces water to the tank from the bottom up, allowing oxygenated water to enter the tank which keeps existing water from stagnating.



#### Overflow siphon:

The siphon prevents the tank from overflowing: diverting any excess water to drainage whilst removing pollen from the water service keeping it clean.



#### Submersible pump:

A variety of pumps can be used both manually and automatically so the water harvested can be utilised in the process.

wetter periods, there is every likelihood that the tank will overflow. In urban areas, this may cause localised surface water that is not easily diverted to a drain or natural watercourse, leading to temporary flooding of pathways or gardens and making you really popular with your neighbours!

## Watch out for foreign objects

Rainwater harvesting is not without its hazards and your system should be inspected regularly to ensure foreign objects don't negatively affect the quality of water. To begin with, install a leaf filter to prevent nozzles and sprayers from becoming blocked. Next, ensure your tank is correctly sealed and – if your system has one – only examined through a dedicated inspection hatch.

## Use rainwater to keep your garden looking great

From the outset, you should consider how you want to use your harvested rain. With good filtration, rainwater is perfect for the garden – the lack of chemicals (such as chlorine) give the

rainwater a neutral pH balance which is better for irrigation and plants than mains water.

Not only that, but it's also much cheaper. According to Anglian Water, an average hosepipe uses between 550 to 1000 litres of water per hour. Therefore, whether you are watering the garden or washing the car, using water from a purpose-built rainwater harvesting tank will lead to significant savings on your water bills.

## Can rainwater supplement your mains water supply?

Rainwater can also supplement your mains water supply inside the house. For example, the Energy Saving Trust estimates that flushing the toilet and using your washing machine accounts for about 33% of average household water use in the UK. A rainwater harvesting tank can easily be retrofitted to your property, but if you want to supplement your mains water usage in this way, you will need a qualified plumber to install and fit the pipework into your property. You can find one through the Association of Plumbing & Heating Contractors or via WaterSafe.



Regardless, if successful, you could be saving quite a bit on your water bills.

## Reap the rewards from rainwater harvesting

Water is a precious natural resource that we take for granted in the UK. Rainwater harvesting offers an affordable and sustainable alternative supply to mains water. A quality tank is relatively inexpensive and, once installed, will provide regular free water throughout the year for many years.

www.tuffa.co.uk









# Using the correct tools to get the right finish

When it comes to decorating, choosing the right tools for each job can sometimes be a minefield.

et failure to select the best brush, roller or prep tools for the task in hand can leave you with a less than desirable finish to your work.

## Get prepped for the job

Fail to prepare, prepare to fail. Any professional decorator knows that the most important step is always the first and it's essential that you prep surface areas to achieve the perfect finish.

For toolkit essentials, multi-tools provide a wide range of features that make all key prep tasks easier. Encompassing screwdrivers, scrapers, nail pullers, bottle and can openers and more, multi-tools allow you to keep your toolkit light and succinct.

## Which type of brush to choose?

Choosing the right brush for the right job can make all the difference to the finished results.

If the surface requires a primer, a thicker stocked brush is best - as they will provide a good surface for the paint. These brushes will pick up and release more paint than a regular brush, allowing decorators greater productivity on the job with more paint at hand.

Oil-based paints can be quite thick to apply so it's important to use a stiffer brush in order to work the paint and get as much pick-up as possible.

Stains and varnishes are extremely thin and bring the opposite problem. Overworking these products can leave them prone to brush-marking. so choose a soft brush, with fine filaments to achieve a beautiful, mirror-like finish.

Water-based paints are also thin in texture, so opt for thinner filaments to create less drag when laying off to achieve a smoother finish. A brush with thinner filaments will allow a quick and easy clean up once the job is finally complete.

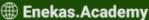
## Selecting the best roller and sleeve for the iob

Using the right roller and sleeve not only gives a better finish, but can increase productivity and performance. Lightweight and durable frames are ideal for all jobs no matter how big or small. When it comes to sleeves, woven covers allow for more paint pick-up and help reduce dripping and spatter - delivering an expert finish every time.

www.purdv.com













## Creating a family hub

When Mike Treherne and his partner Fiona decided to add a side return with a pitched roof and large skylight onto their Victorian terrace home, they created something beautiful. The new addition included a larger front reception room, a utility and coat area and spacious kitchen featuring a contemporary structural glass window seat overlooking the garden.

ike explains: "We wanted a more spacious family and entertaining area. It wasn't something we particularly aspired to, but it did have the advantage of enabling us to personalise the space. We'd already lived here for a while and, like many people, wanted to enhance our home.

"The previous room was quite dark, so we wanted to get as much natural light as possible in - the glass roof was a great way to achieve this."

The extension into the side return needed to maximise the amount of light coming into the space and the glass roof was a great way to achieve this. The glass roof is constructed using

multiple panes of glass that are bonded together with structural silicone joints, therefore, avoiding the need for any bulky framework.

Another stunning feature on this project is a glass box which is cantilevered off the back of the new extension, meaning it takes no support from the ground externally. Much like the glass roof, the glass has been bonded together using structural silicone which avoids the need for any aluminium framework and maximises the glazed area. It works beautifully as a window seat and really connects the internal space with the garden. It is also an interesting alternative to full-width bi-fold or sliding doors.













































Mike continues: "The look and layout of this project was a combination of ideas from Plus Rooms' designers and our friend who is an architect. Gaining planning permission was quick - only seven weeks."

The build proved to be a little more challenging though, as Mike explains: "We had an issue routing the rainwater runoff back through the house to the drain at the front, which related to unusual drainage and floor levels in our property. Plus Rooms worked with building control to find a suitable compromise that involved diverting the guttering with no need for an expensive pumping system.

"We left the building material specification to Plus Rooms, however, we sourced all the interior materials via an interior designer friend and we are delighted with the results.

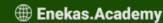
"It took two months for the build to complete, and another three months for the fittings to be finished - in fitting with the estimated timeline, and we remained more or less within budget.

"We used matching brickwork and roof tiles in keeping with the existing property but it has been completed with modern, clean details, like the structural glass box and skylight, which has very delicate framework.

"The finished space is everything we hoped for. It's a fantastic living space, flooded with natural light, and is very much the hub of family activity. We absolutely love the box window - it's a design feature that really worked for us. It's a lovely place to sit and look into the garden, and gives the room a distinctive feature. Our favourite room is the kitchen, but we also really like having a separate laundry room now.

"There's nothing we would have done differently, we are very happy with everything just as it is. We would definitely do the whole thing again."









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# From post office to Pyrenees paradise

Whilst working in the Alps as a Ski Instructor and Mountain Guide, James Dealtry visited many of the luxurious chalets in the resort which blew him away. Their sheer beauty, and robustness, but also how well they fitted into the landscape really appealed to him, and he told himself that one day he would own his own mountain lodge.

ince my early days in the French Alps, I always dreamed of owning and renovating my own mountain lodge with a view to running the property as a luxurious mountain retreat, where my guests not only benefit from having an in-house guide, but also get to relax in a beautifully restored lodge," explains James.

However, when James discovered how expensive it would be to realise his dream in the Alps, he decided to change tack.

"After realising that the start-up costs in the Alps were out of my league, and also that I was looking for more of an all-year-round lifestyle, my search took me to the stunning Pyrenees. I searched many valleys and towns that could not only offer me the property that I was looking for but also somewhere that could offer my guests a gateway into the many mountain activities available during both summer and winter seasons. The Louron Valley delivers on both.

"The lodge is a very traditional Pyrenean stone-built building, dating back to 1854 - it was once the village post office. Part of the building's charm is the wonderful character features, like the incredibly thick walls, old exposed beams and large fireplaces which all combine to give the property a very cosy, warm feel both inside and out.

"The property is a detached building and was already divided into two halves. One half was the house, which, although in a very poor state of repair, was just about habitable. The other

side of the property is like many properties in the Pyrenean mountains - attached to the house is what the French call a 'grange', or barn as we would know it. It was this side that needed the most work but actually gave the building its potential. Once the opening between the two sides was made, the two halves became one large property. I wanted to keep the original look of the exterior, so apart from adding some large windows and rooflights, the property stayed very close to its original form. It was important to me to restore the building to its former glory whilst retaining as many of the original features as possible in order to preserve this stunning property for many centuries to come."











James continues: "My vision was to renovate the property to a very high standard of comfort whilst carefully preserving its original features, combining a look of new and old into the interior of the building but, most importantly, making sure the property is very energy-efficient and where possible using environmentally-friendly and locally-sourced materials in the process.

"I planned the renovation project carefully over a year, sourcing some good tradesmen, but also visiting as many properties as possible, along with plenty of research on the internet to gain ideas, so I could achieve the exact look I wanted. From start to finish, planning permission took about five months.

"One of the biggest challenges was sourcing excellent tradesmen and local materials, but also making sure the project did not run out of control financially."

James explains: "I did manage most of the project myself, however, as this was my first renovation project I did sometimes call on help and advice from my main contractor when it came to getting the right trades working in the right order, which I now know is crucial to the smooth running of a project on this scale.

"I employed an architect to draw up the plans but also to help with the very complicated planning process - after that, I was on my own.

"My approach to this was simply that where possible I wanted to recycle as many of the original materials as possible, but where the use of new materials was necessary I always made sure that these were locally sourced and as green as possible.

"One thing I would say is always make sure you invest time and money into getting the best insolation available, as this will not only be cost-effective in the long run, but something that if you decided was not done well enough or is insufficient the first time round would prove very costly and messy to upgrade at a later date, so even if it means increasing the budget to be able to do this; trust me, it will be well worth it.

"All in all, I was 10% over on budget, but this was mainly due to unexpected structural costs which were sadly only detected once the building works started, so be aware when renovating an old property as there is almost always a hidden problem and it's best to have a contingency fund ready."

James continues: "As I was only able to work on my project between winter and summer seasons, it took about three years to complete, however, looking back I have to say it was a benefit not to be in a rush as it enabled me more time to calculate and plan along the way







"The ground floor comprises a large kitchen, snug/reading room and a very large living/dining area all with roaring woodburning stoves for the cosy winter nights. The main living room opens onto its own terraced area and private garden giving unrestricted views onto the snow-capped mountains. We have six well-appointed and very comfortable en-suite rooms all with incredible mountain views. The exterior of the property is a mixture of robust exposed stone and wood which help to maintain its original beauty all topped with its mandatory Pyrenean slate roof. It's everything I hoped for and more. Being one of the original buildings in the village and now renovated to its former glory without many exterior changes, it stands very proudly but discreetly at the entrance to the village of Avajan. Given the building's history as the old post house, the locals as well as the mayor are always telling me how delighted they are



















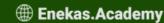




"What I love most is the feeling of complete protection and shelter it provides from some of the most extreme weather conditions we endure in the mountains, as given its incredibly robust structure, it can withstand almost anything mother nature throws at it, whilst being able to retain a soft, cosy feel about the place. My favourite room would always be the kitchen, as with its large windows and woodburner, it's simply a delight to be in and a room which is so incredibly warm and snug in the winter months - it's hard to leave.

"The only thing I would do differently would be, never to try and live in the property as you're doing the works, as this brings so many problems, but also makes the whole process that little bit more stressful as you are never able to switch off at the end of the day's works. That said, I would do the whole thing again in a heartbeat as I feel it would be a shame not to use the experience and knowledge that I have gained from this project."

James concludes: "My advice would be to plan the project properly, down to the finest detail and make sure you're ready to commit the time and effort that the project will need. Do your research in sourcing the best tradesmen available to you and make sure they fully understand your vision before embarking on the project. Be realistic with your budget and make sure you have a contingency fund for when unexpected problems arise but, most importantly, make sure you're ready to work incredibly hard to achieve your goal as there will be days when you question why you ever started such a project but trust me when I say it's all worth it in the end."









## Paint – adding the finishing touch

Having completed your dream home, painting and decorating is the final stage that really makes it feel like your own. Here Simon Tilbrook, Director at Fenwick & Tilbrook, gives his top tips on paint types for your self-build.

he colours you choose will have a big effect on the look you create and enable you to inject even more of your own personality into each room. But when it comes to paint, you're not just deciding on colour. The vast range of finishes available offers up a whole host of options for different areas of your home, depending on the effect you want to achieve and where the paint is going to be used. There is also a massive difference in the quality of paint which will affect how well it covers and how long it lasts.

Paint is normally oil- or water-based. Water-based paints are typically more

environmentally- and user-friendly with less odour, quicker drying times and the brushes can be cleaned with water. Oil-based paints provide tough, glossy finishes but have higher VOC levels, longer drying times and the brushes need cleaning in turpentine or spirits.

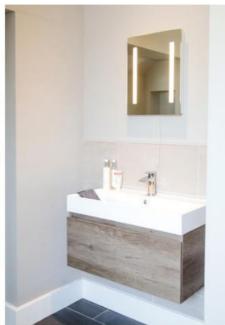
Walls and ceilings work extremely well in pure matt. These products have a 2% sheen which provides a sumptuous flat finish that makes it ideal for virtually all rooms in all colours. When choosing a low-sheen finish, some ultra-matt paints can seem dull so it's important to choose a paint with high levels of chroma or colour intensity. This will really bring out the gorgeous range of tones you'll see in different lights at different times of day and create a paint effect which 'pops'. It's ideal for a bedroom, whether you're opting for ultra-modern style with greys and whites or a soothing effect with greens and creams.

Interior eggshell is a tougher finish but with a soft and delicate sheen. This paint has around a 10% sheen, although others can vary. Lower sheen levels such as this mean that, although it's an eggshell which you may typically associate with woodwork and metalwork, it is perfectly suited to walls too. The added durability makes it ideal for higher traffic areas such as hallways and













as it's also wipeable, it's perfect for kitchens and bathrooms. Interior eggshell is highly versatile, meaning you can paint everything from your walls and architrave to your radiators and shelves in it - perfect for a super coordinated look. Kitchens in particular are fabulous painted in interior eggshell - the paint can really personalise your cupboards and cabinets while making sure they can endure cooking and cleaning day in, day out.

When it comes to painting your home, it doesn't just have to be limited to interiors. Exterior eggshell for woodwork, plaster and metalwork and masonry paint for concrete and brickwork enables you to achieve stunning effects outside to really show your home's exterior and garden walls to their best advantage. Create beautiful and inviting exteriors which complement your interior and make the garden and outside space simply an extension

of indoors. A coordinated approach can be really effective in creating a very natural flow from inside the house to outside in the garden.

The great thing about many paint companies, including Fenwick & Tilbrook, is that you can order any colour you like in any finish you need so there is no limit as to what you can paint.

While some higher quality paints are selfpriming, it is often advisable to also use a separate primer first. This is particularly worthwhile if you are painting over unpainted surfaces new plaster which is quite porous and will soak up lots of paint. Primers can help to achieve greater coverage with the top coat of paint, meaning you need to use less paint to achieve the perfect colour-rich result. Multi-surface primer can be applied to any surface prior to painting to ensure there is a good bond. This is especially applicable if the previous coating was an oil-based product. Oil and water don't mix! Primers also help extend

longevity of your paintwork and a good primer will enable you to paint virtually anything - the possibilities become endless.

With paint, you really do get what you pay for. Some paints contain more cheap fillers and are thinner so they will take more coats to cover and are likely to fade and mark more easily. A quality paint will always deliver a better finish. Opt for a paint which is thicker with high levels of chroma and opacity to ensure colours that are rich and intense. A good quality paint should be rich in pigment and, so, require fewer coats and provide better coverage. They are typically easier to apply too by brush, roller or spray. Choosing a superior paint will also help to maintain that freshly-painted, pristine appearance for longer and provide added durability so you can wipe surfaces clean. There's so much more to paint than just colour.

www.fenwickandtilbrook.com







## Make sure your new build is Part Q compliant

With more people than ever before planning a new build or self-build, making sure you stay the right side of Building Regulations is vital if you want to avoid any potentially expensive and time-consuming problems with building inspectors.

hilst many of the current **Building Regulations have** been in place for many years, one of the latest - the introduction of Part Q - remains in its infancy. Here Matt Chambers, National Sales Manager for timber window and door specialist Dale Joinery, looks at Part Q and the requirements placed upon those wanting to build their dream home.

In October 2015, Building Regulations for England were changed, introducing the Part O classification to help increase the security



performance of windows and doors being installed in new-build properties. Phased in over the following 12 months, they became compulsory on 1st October 2016.

The new mandatory Part Q classification, seeks to ensure high security standards for new-build homes including homes created by change of use such as barn conversions.

So what does that mean for builders, developers and self-builders? For any new build you are working on, the windows and doorsets being used must be manufactured to a design that has been successfully tested to meet the security requirements of PAS 24:2012.

Approved Document Q is designed to ensure the prevention of unauthorised access to dwellings (including flats). As part of this, doors and windows or rooflights which could be accessed need to resist physical attack by a casual or opportunist burglar.

They, therefore, must be sufficiently robust, fitted with appropriate hardware and, most importantly, be proven to have security performance.

The requirement set out by the Government is that: "Reasonable provision must be made to resist unauthorised access to any dwelling and other buildings exposed to comparable risk".

Simply put, anyone building a new home must install windows and doors which are shown by test to meet the required performance as detailed in PAS 24: 2012. This will mean proving to building inspectors that the windows and doors selected for the project are fully certified and that you are able to provide full product details for each design and construction with full supporting test reports for each product in the range supplied

Products meeting the requirements of the Secured by Design scheme will be deemed to meet the recommendations.

## Where does Part Q apply?

Part Q does not apply to any building work started before 1st October 2016. Specifically, it looks at windows and doors that could be easily accessed such as:

A doorset or window, any part of which is within 2m vertically of an accessible surface such as the ground or basement level, or an access balcony.

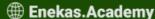
B A window within 2m vertically of a flat or sloping roof (with a pitch of less than 30°) that is within 3.5m of ground level



















In addition, doorset letter plates should have a maximum aperture of 260 x 40mm and be designed to hinder anyone from removing keys with a stick or by inserting their hand, by incorporating a flap or other feature to restrict access.

The main door into a dwelling should have a viewer or other means to see callers, such as clear glass either in the door or adjacent window. and be fitted with a door chain or door limiter.

In practice, building control inspectors may apply their own judgement to which doorsets and windows will be considered vulnerable, but it is worth knowing what the guidelines set out.

Ultimately, the building inspector will judge whether a project meets the requirements of the regulation. If you are in any doubt, it is vitally important that you discuss this with the relevant building control body.

As with all Building Regulations, this will be policed by the building control inspector and there are examples of self-builders not adhering to Part Q and being asked to remove the existing windows and doors and replace them with Part Q-certified ones - a very costly issue to have to deal with.

## Compliance with Part Q

All aspects of the window and door system selected needs to be tested for Part Q Building Regulations, so it's vitally important that you use a window and door manufacturer whose products are fully Part Q certified.

Whilst many self-builders may like the idea of using a joinery firm that is small and local to them, you must ensure that the joinery firm you are looking at using are Part Q certified for all of the products you are looking to install. Different window and door styles must all be tested and certified to the new standard.

Clearly, the classification is designed to have a positive impact on the security of windows and doors for new-build properties and for leading window and door companies like ourselves, testing existing product ranges is a major undertaking.

For smaller joinery firms, the combination of time and cost has prohibited them from testing their products against Part Q - so it is very much buyer beware.

If you are thinking of buying door and window sets from abroad, again, be careful to ensure that the manufacturer or supplier you are sourcing from is compliant with Part Q **Building Regulations.** 

One of the most effective ways to ensure Part Q compliance is to:

Use a door and window supplier that is fully Part Q compliant and ask to see their certification and evidence for any, and all, of the door and window styles you are looking at.

Select a supplier that can deliver the door and window products to site fully factory-finishedready and ready to fit, ensuring you are in no doubt your windows and doors are Part Q compliant.

www.dalejoinery.co.uk









# How to improve drainage in your garden

The British climate can throw a variety of types of weather at us from the Atlantic, sometimes bringing large amounts of rainfall. Many gardens in the UK suffer from poor drainage, so if your garden is one of them, rest assured, you are not alone.

n recent times, there has been a sharp increase in the number of homeowners converting gardens into paved areas for driveways and patios. It is believed that this is a contributing factor to the increasing likelihood of flooding.

Waterlogged, boggy conditions are far from ideal when trying to maintain a lush, green lawn. Sticky, glue-like layers of boggy soil make for a lawn that's squelchy underfoot, and that can easily turn yellow and die off.

There are many factors that can contribute to poor drainage in the garden, which have left many gardens struggling to cope with excessive water.

Good drainage is crucial for growing many forms of garden plants, so if you're a keen gardener, improving your drainage should be high on your priority list.

Here, NeoGrass looks at various methods of improving drainage within your self-build garden.

#### Install land drains

This first option is generally only recommended if your lawn is particularly bad. Installing a land drain involves digging a trench, or a series of trenches, in your lawn, installing a perforated land drain encased in pea shingle. Water will drain through your lawn and into the perforated land drain pipe, which will channel it away from that area to whatever other part of your garden you choose.

If you are considering installing land drainage, it is advisable to carry out this procedure at the end of the summer or during autumn, when the ground is at its driest. It can be a very difficult task to install land drains in wet conditions.

## Grow more plants

One of the best ways to improve drainage in your garden is to grow more plants. It can be relatively inexpensive and it's sure to make your garden a nicer place to be. Plant choice is the key to success here as you'll need to choose something that will survive wet conditions.

Unfortunately, many plants dislike too much water and cannot tolerate waterlogged conditions. However, there are some waterloving trees and plants to choose from, such as maples, willows, astilbe, ferns, filipendula, Cornus alba, bee balm, mint, Zantedeschia aethiopica, various varieties of irises, and hostas. These trees and plants thrive in wet or boggy conditions and will help to suck excess moisture out of the ground.

## Improve soil drainage

If the drainage issue within your self-build garden isn't too severe, simply improving the permeability of the soil in your beds many alleviate the problem.

To improve the drainage of your soil, you'll need to dig in lots of organic matter. Soil with a high organic matter content allows excess water to drain through, while absorbing needed moisture.

It's relatively easy to obtain a continuous supply of organic matter to apply to your beds and every garden should have a compost heap











A compost heap is considered the most valuable means of improving the soil as it is an ideal independent creator of humus. The word 'humus' refers to any organic matter that has reached a point of stability, where it will not break down any further. Humus significantly improves the structure of soil and contributes to moisture and nutrient retention. If your soil is sticky and clay-like, it's highly advisable to add coarse grit sand to aid drainage within the garden.

Managing surface water run-off effectively and efficiently is a great way to improve drainage. This can be simply achieved by incorporating sloping surfaces within your garden, so that the surface water is directed to an area where it can be efficiently disposed of (e.g. a surface drain or plant bed containing moisture-loving plants).

The only downside is that it may be a costly option. Depending on the circumstances, you may need to hire a mini excavator to sculpt the contours of your garden.

## Use bark chippings

Adding bark chippings to plant beds is a great way of dealing with poor draining soils. The bark will absorb moisture from the bed, thereby improving drainage

The great thing about bark chippings is that they can perform a multitude of tasks. Not only are they great at retaining moisture, but they also prevent weed growth, help insulate the beds during cold periods, and improve the aesthetics of virtually any plant bed they are added to.

## Build raised beds

Another alternative to dealing with poor draining soils is to build raised beds. Building a raised bed means that you can fill it with good quality, free-draining topsoil that gets your plants up out of the boggy earth below.

Raised beds can be constructed out of timber railway sleepers or brickwork. They will not only help you grow plants and shrubs that require drier conditions, but also create interesting features within a garden.

## Spike your lawn

You may need to consider spiking or pricking your lawn. There are certain tools that will make the job of spiking your lawn easier, but it can be done with a simple garden fork.

The purpose of spiking is to create small holes, ideally 4 to 5" inches deep. These holes can then be filled with a lawn dressing or horticultural sand. The idea behind this is to channel excess water to the deeper, less compacted areas beneath your lawn.

If your lawn is prone to waterlogging, it is recommended that you spike your lawn every couple of years. Do it during the autumn time, before your lawn becomes too boggy due to winter rains.

## Install artificial grass

Another method of improving drainage in your garden is to consider having a fake lawn installed. Artificial grass is capable of handling large amounts of rainfall.

In fact, 52 litres of water can filter through the perforated backing of artificial grass per square metre, per minute.

But the key to a successful, drainageimproving artificial lawn is to ensure that a permeable sub-base is installed beneath the turf.

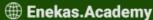
If your garden suffers from poor drainage, don't worry, you are not alone. The good news is that there are many options open to you, to help improve the drainage in your garden.

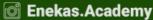
Obviously, some options require more effort (and cost more) than others, but hopefully NeoGrass has given you some ideas and inspiration to try out a few things for a luscious, green garden that you can enjoy all year round.

www.neograss.co.uk











## How to make your home more secure

Physical and visible deterrents give criminals the first indication that the owner of the property has an awareness around security and as a result the criminal will often move on elsewhere to look for somewhere easier to break in to.

Here, Secured by Design discusses how to make sure your self-build is secure.

## Review your home security

The best way to conduct a review of your own home security is to use the 'onion peeling principle', starting with the boundaries and working inwards towards the centre.

## Boundary

Criminals often use a vehicle during the commission of crime, especially in rural areas. They want to load up their stolen property and make good their escape as soon as possible. If they can't get close to the target they will more than likely move on to somewhere easier. They also wish to avoid stopping at the side of the road where they and their vehicle can be seen and possibly identified

Lower fences at the front of a property are better than high fences as they allow for natural vision over and do not provide cover for someone hiding.

At the rear and sides of a property, taller fencing is recommended to prevent easy access. A minimum height of 1.8m is advised.

Consider someone climbing over a fence or gate and try to make it difficult for them to do so by adding light trellis, thorny plants or a suitable anti-climb topping.

Check your boundary fences are in good condition. Planting along boundaries and fence lines acts as a powerful natural barrier to someone getting in.

Gravel driveways and paths are ideal at preventing a silent approach. Ensure gates are locked to prevent access to the rear or sides of the property.

CCTV can alert you to someone getting inside your boundary if it is monitored, e.g. by being linked to a smartphone. Smart doorbells, like Ring, alert you to callers to your property. A number of Secured by Design member companies supply the most recent technological innovations in this area.

Cut vegetation back every spring so it does not obscure someone from view or interfere with lighting or CCTV.

## Lighting

Automatic lights can detect movement and deter intruders. Thieves do not like to be seen. A security light being activated is also sign that there may be an intruder on the premises. Consider dusk-to-dawn lighting as an option too.

Fit passive infrared lights lighting to illuminate outbuildings, courtyards and houses if someone approaches.

## Outbuildings

Landowners and householders too often pay less attention to garages, sheds and other outbuildings where they often store expensive equipment, however, these are vulnerable as they are not very secure and also contain tools with which the burglar can use to assist them to gain entry into a home.









You should ensure that all external outbuilding doors are of solid construction with suitable locks or a close shackle padlock and bar fitted to it - Standard LPS 1654:2014 - Sold Secure. Consider fitting non-returnable screws or coach bolts to the hinges.

Use laminated glass for the windows and fit an internal screen or blind to hide the contents from anyone outside. Locks should be fitted to all windows.

Garage doors are vulnerable and you can make them more secure by installing additional security, such as padlocks, to provide multiple locking points or using floor-mounted locking T-bars. Do not forget that ladders and tools left outside can be used to assist burglars to break into your home. Ensure they are secured within a garage or shed.

## Building

Fit a good intruder alarm system installed by a reputable dealer. Signage is an effective deterrent if used with an active alarm system.

Consider extending your burglar alarm to include your garage or outbuildings if it doesn't already.

#### Doors

Always remember to use the locks correctlydouble-lock PVC-U and multi-point locking doors (lift handle and turn and remove key).

If your door has a postbox, a letterplate fitted to the rear of the door will prevent someone reaching in and opening the door or fishing for any items close by. Consider any cat flaps also and position keys and valuables away from the opening in the door.

Patio doors are vulnerable to forced entry. If you are replacing your door, always fit a security accredited product to standard PAS24:2016. These are tested to British Standards and are approved by the insurance industry.

#### Windows

Sash stops prevent someone opening the sash window wide enough to climb through. Key operated locks are recommended for all other window types and any ground floor or accessible windows (unless being used as a means of escape).

Remember, window locks are only effective if used, so check that you have locked them before you leave your home or go to bed.

Consider additional security for any windows that could be easily reached by someone climbing from below, but always remember to give yourself a means of escape - ensure that you can get out of your home quickly in the event of a fire.

If you are replacing your windows always consider a security-accredited product to

standard PAS 24:2016 as these windows are tested to British Standards and are insurance approved.

#### Contents

Property marking makes it easier for the police to trace and recover stolen articles and prosecute offenders. Use a Secured by Design police-approved forensic marking system. Register your valuables free of charge using one of the accredited suitable property databases. Take photographs and keep documents, such as receipts, related to your property, so you can prove ownership.

A home safe is designed to hold small valuables such as passports, credit cards, identification documents and jewellery. Home safes are insurance rated according to the type and value of the items designed to be placed inside them so check with your insurance company first to ensure you are adequately covered. Some safes are also approved as fire rated and are ideal for storing valuable documents or computer data inside.

Remember to adequately secure your safe by bolting it to a wall or floor, otherwise it can be simply carried away. Position the safe carefully so it cannot be easily discovered.











# Choosing the right glass extension for you

When it comes to extending your home, you'll face an array of choices. Brickwork? Glass? A bit of both? What should you avoid doing? The questions can become overwhelming. So, Apropos has put together a guide to choosing the right extension, to make things a little easier.

Here, Apropos runs through the options with you, and takes a look at the pros and cons for each.

#### Lean-to conservatories

Lean-to conservatories are the most popular style of glass extension on the market today. With bespoke designs providing individualism for all. Contemporary lean-to conservatories retain all of their classical elements. Boasting steep roof angles; tall, elegant gables; and a higher-than-normal front elevation. All of which adds to the dramatic and spacious feel

If the industrial-chic look appeals to you, a leanto conservatory makes a bold statement all on its own. The illusion of even more space than you, in

reality, have is also a bonus, created by the high roof and striking angles of this design. Bungalows, though, won't work well with a lean-to extension. Alternatively, if you're likely to extend further one day - either up or out - a lean-to conservatory is probably not your best bet.

## Reverse lean-to conservatories

The solution for a bungalow is the reverse leanto conservatory - designed to maximise the feeling of space and light gained from your new extension. This style of structure is an ideal and creative addition when having to extend from a bungalow or similar single-storey building with

## Glazed link extensions

Link conservatories are perfect for connecting disparate buildings, to create one free-flowing space. A glazed link works beautifully when connecting farmhouses or converted barns with their respective outbuildings. A link extension also brings the added benefit of creating new, harmonious layouts.

Furthermore, they are ideal for making use of external 'dead' space, such as unused patio surrounded on three sides by its adjoining property. However, these have a very obvious use and if you have no need of linking together separate sections of your home, or making use of an enclosed courtyard, this won't be the right option for you.













Atria are two or more storeys high. They most often feature a sweeping glass roof and are fully glazed structures. Domestic atria provide properties with a majestic feel, combining architectural statements with practical living spaces. If you're looking to add some serious wow factor to your humble abode, then this is the extension for you.

With an aluminium-framed atrium, you get not one, but two storeys of light-filled rooms meaning the entire property will benefit. You also get to add a little architectural interest to your home. On the other hand, atria provide a lot of additional space. So, if it's just a bit more breathing room you're after, you may be happy to settle for a similarly designed single-storey structure.

#### Contemporary orangeries

Orangeries are popular extensions for period or listed properties. Orangeries can be designed to lend a sense of continuity to the host property with matching stone, brickwork or render to any walls. Alternatively, a modern orangery can add a unique contrast to a period home, or blend brilliantly with one that's more modern.

An orangery is an ideal solution for anyone wanting to balance a need for light and space with privacy. Orangeries also provide the feel of a more conventional room. Go for an orangery-style extension if you want the best of both worlds. This way you get all the benefits of a glass extension, without losing the comfort brick-built walls can bring.

www.aproposconservatories.co.uk













#### You will need:

- Screws
- Tile adhesive
- HardieBacker/ cement board
- Mixing bucket and something to mix with
- Wire mesh
- Lengths of wood
   Spirit level
  - Sealant
- Large, smooth
- Drill
- Trowel
- Hammer

## A table with a feature tiled base and concrete top

Tiles. We use them in bathrooms and we use them on floors. But have you ever used them as part of a piece of furniture?

Here, Kerry of Kezzabeth - the home improvements blog - explains how she made her very own garden table.

#### Step 1

In order to use tiles as a base for a table, they need to have a suitable surface for tiling onto. This needs to be quite strong to hold the weight of the tiles too. I used HardieBacker.

I cut the HardieBacker into four exact rectangles using a jigsaw to roughly 45 x 30cm. I then cut four lengths of wood to the same height as the HardieBacker and height I wanted the table to be (45cm).

#### Step 2

Using long screws, I then affixed the pieces of HardieBacker onto the wood. If your wood is rectangular like mine, you'll need to turn it around on each side to keep it all square. It's also really important to remember one side of HardieBacker needs to overhang the wood to meet up with the second piece.

#### Step 3

Now for the fun part - tiling! I used a wet tile saw to cut them and they were literally the easiest tiles I've ever had to cut. It was like slicing through butter! My top tip for using a wet tile saw is to place masking tape over the area you want to cut - it stops your pencil line dissolving through the water and it leaves a smoother cut. I laid tiles on one side at a time, letting it dry before rolling the table over. Don't forget - if you intend on using the table outside, you'll need a tile adhesive that's suitable for outdoor use.

#### Step 4

I cut the wood to the size I wanted and then screwed it directly onto the worktop, making sure everything was completely square with an angle finder. I then used some sealant around the edges between the wood and worktop and also between the corners of the wood. This will stop the cement mix seeping under the wood.

#### Step 5

Once that's all dried, you can then pour cement. I poured the cement into the mould approximately halfway up before inserting some wire mesh. Make sure the mould is completely level before pouring the cement.

#### Step 6

After a 48-hour wait, it can now be lifted from its mould

#### Step 7

Since the concrete top is pretty heavy, there's no need to physically attach it to the base, it really isn't going to be knocked off with much ease. Not having it attached also means we can store things inside it too (great for garden cushions during winter) and makes it a little more practical. And that's it - you can now sit down with a book and glass of wine and enjoy your new table.

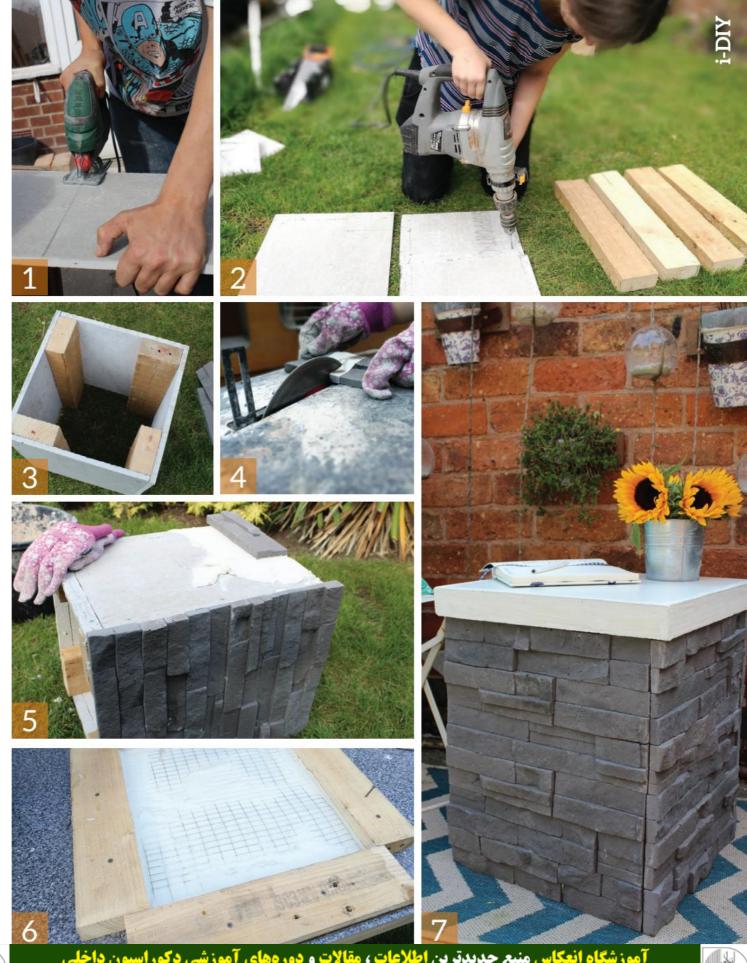
www.kezzabeth.co.uk





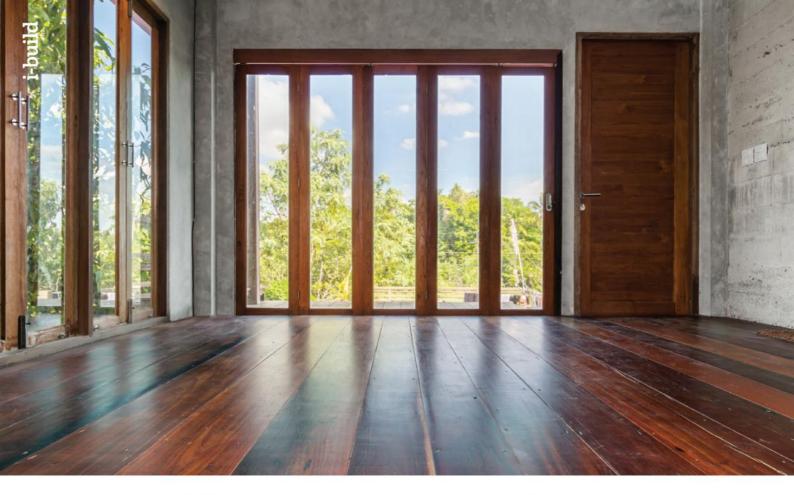












## Should you consider bi-folding doors?

In the last three or four decades, the way we live has changed dramatically. Here, Ray Murphy of Fold N Go discusses the important role bi-folding doors play in today's self-build designs.

he average family home isn't the same as it was 30 or 40 years ago for many of us. A lot of these changes are solely to do with the layout of our homes and how they've been adapted to make life easier. Many of the most significant changes are found in the kitchen and dining room areas. One of the most modern additions to the household is the bi-folding door system. By its own design, a union between indoors and outdoors.

The introduction of these doors to a kitchen or dining area has, in many ways, transformed the usability of this part of the owner's property, becoming the hub of the household.

Not only does the addition of bi-folding doors allow you to open up the rear of your property directly into the garden in the spring and summer months, they also offer exceptional thermal values for the winter months too.

Functionality is a point often raised when considering the overall benefits of bi-folding systems. There are a few points which need to be considered.

#### How user-friendly are they?

The answer, in short, is very. They are mounted on rollers, top and bottom, which ensures that the occupants of the household can use them with great ease. Access can be provided with an opening door at one end of the bi-fold or in the middle. When fully opened, the doors stack in a concertina style to provide maximum width.

#### How energy-efficient are they?

Efficiency of bi-folding doors is of the utmost importance to the manufacturers. In almost all cases bi-folding doors are A\*\* rated and certified 0.9U rating - providing the same insulation rating as a double glazed window.

#### Do I need planning permission?

No, unless you are planning to install your bi-folding doors onto the front of your home, it is not required.

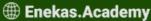
With these points taken into consideration, it is clear that bi-folding doors can truly transform any room from a box to a spacious family area for eating or entertainment the perfect family hub for all to appreciate. Even in the winter months sitting in a warm kitchen looking out at the cold exterior, a wall of glass is a cosy feeling for all.

In short, bi-folds have transformed so many thousands of homes, the benefits are hard to ignore.

www.foldngo.co.uk







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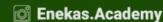
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## Front door lighting ideas

Great lighting at the front of your self-build not only provides a warm welcome for guests, it is also a practical addition.

Here, John Cullen Lighting gives its top front door lighting ideas to ensure that you create the right impression and improve your kerb appeal.

#### Lanterns

A lantern either side of the door creates a welcoming effect. Alternatively, you can add a hanging lantern if your self-build has a porch. Whichever solution you choose, for the best effect, these lighting elements are best dimmed and combined with some other concealed architectural lighting features - try adding uplights to the door surrounds or lighting of your steps.

#### Architectural uplighting and downlighting

In a more contemporary scheme, a good solution is to use a more architectural up/ downlight. For a more dramatic look, if you have planting either side of the door, combine this with an element of backlighting which will throw the panting into silhouette.

For a townhouse, adding an element of uplighting around the door will create a welcoming effect - you could also continue this lighting across to your front window too.

For a country house, if you have a porch, add waterspring downlights in the soffit to wash light down the front door. Combine this with an element of uplighting to some planting around your door to create a more interesting look. It is also important to consider how the whole front of the house will look as you drive in.

#### Dos and don'ts

Remember, light travels a long way at night, especially in the countryside, so do use lighting selectively. Don't forget that darkness can also be used to great effect to conceal any less attractive areas. And finally, try and avoid security lights which are glary and will wash the space with too much harsh light.









www.johncullenlighting.com









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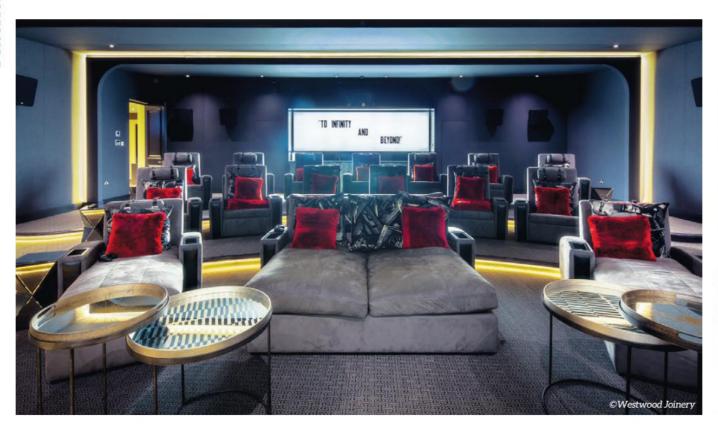












## Picking the right design for your home cinema

When it comes to picking a design for your home cinema many people may not know where to start. It may seem like a daunting task and the more research you do, the more options you may be presented with, but there are many professionals that can help with this. Here, Desmond & Sons provides its tips for designing the perfect cinema room in your self-build.

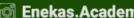


n recent years, cinemas within the home have increased significantly in popularity along with the extent of works involved in creating the perfect home cinemas. Home cinemas are so much more that just a room with surround sound and a projector. They are now centred around providing the perfect viewing experience as well as the perfect listening environment, with the introduction of acoustic treatments, all whilst creating a room of pure luxury.

Acoustics are playing a vital role in the evolution of the home cinema industry. The industry is becoming more aware and knowledgeable on the subject and this is being passed on to the end consumer. Many potential home cinema owners are willing to spend a small percentage of the equipment cost to get their room to the optimal listening environment - getting the most out of their system.

With this is mind, there are even more things to consider when planning a home cinema. With the help of a home cinema specialist, there are a plethora of decisions you'll need to make. Would you like speakers surface-mounted or in-wall, will you be having an acoustic treatment fitted? Or, if the space permits, you may wish for walls to be built out to accommodate speakers and an acoustic treatment. You can really alter the design, however, you want to create an amazing space as you are effectively working with a blank canvas. You may want to have a flat ceiling, a stepped ceiling, a coffered ceiling or even introduce a bulkhead. You can have flat walls, sawtooth sections, the choices are endless and plentiful.







#### TOP TIPS:

- Decide if the room will be a dedicated home cinema room or if it needs to be doubled-up for another use.
- View home cinema specialists' portfolios and social media pages to get an idea of your likes and dislikes.
- Contact home cinema specialists and arrange to view their demo facility.
- Decide if you have enough space to build out walls. If so, decide if you are willing to spend a small percentage of your equipment cost to acoustically treat the room to get the most out of your system.
- Arrange a meeting with a home cinema specialist to discuss your ideas and options.
- Discuss your room layout with your installer and any special details you would like to add.
- Discuss your room finishes with your installer. If fabric walls are required, then they can contact a specialist and arrange to get samples sent to help with your decisions.



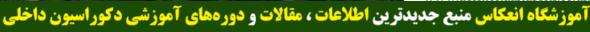


Not only are there choices with the room structure, but also the finishes. A great way to finish home cinema rooms is the introduction of fabric walls. Fabric walls can give your room a luxurious look and feel and really help give the sense of bringing the big screen to your home. Fabric walls not only look great, but are widely used in cinemas for acoustic purposes. Acoustic treatment and speakers, if desired, can be fitted behind a stretched fabric finish. This can give the room a crisp, neat finish without the use of too many reflective surfaces. Acoustically transparent fabrics can be used so soundwaves travel through the fabric to the treatment behind.

Fabrics that are suitable for walling come in a vast array of colours and textures, so it can be difficult to narrow down your choice. There are companies that can help by providing suitable samples. If you are considering installing a home cinema, then there are many installers located all over the UK that will be more than happy to help. You can arrange a meeting to discuss all aspects of your room from start to finish. You may also wish to engage with an interior designer to help with the design.

Any experienced home cinema installer will be able to give a great deal of input in regard to design ideas so don't worry if you are not sure what you want. Once decisions have been finalised, let the experts do their thing and enjoy your luxury home cinema room.

www.desmondandsons.co.uk











## SmartSecure showcased by Grabex Windows

Grabex Windows featured the FUHR 881 fully-motorised multipoint door lock, supplied by Carl F Groupco, on its stand at the 2018 Grand Designs Live event in London. Considerable interest was shown in the innovative lock that was displayed with Carl F Groupco's SmartSecure fingerprint and remote key fob access control options on Grabex's timber door.

Commenting on the selection of SmartSecure technology to complement the company's doors, Maria Kaskel, Sales and Marketing Manager for Grabex, said: "Our solid timber doors, which are available in traditional, contemporary and historic designs, are highly customisable, as demonstrated by the Smart technology supplied by Carl F Groupco that we have incorporated into the design. The addition of SmartSecure's access control options enable the user to electronically unlock the door - this

was a feature of keen interest to visitors to our stand at the Grand Designs exhibition."

The FUHR multitronic 881 is at the heart of Carl F Groupco's SmartSecure solutions - when the door is closed, all locking points, including the deadbolt, lock automatically driven by a dual motor to engage and secure within three seconds of closing. The FUHR 881 integrates with all SmartSecure access control options including the fingerprint and remote key fob access displayed by Grabex at Grand Designs.



Returning to Grand Designs for the ninth time, Grabex Windows presented a wide range of glazing products manufactured at its factory in Orpington. Carl F Groupco is an established supplier of hardware including FUHR mechanical and electronic door/ window locks for Grabex's aluminium, uPVC and timber range of windows, doors and conservatories.

www.carlfgroupco.co.uk sales@carlfgroupco.co.uk 01733 393330

## Sizing up ground source: Kensa launches new pricing tools for self-builders

UK manufacturer Kensa Heat Pumps has launched a new suite of online resources to help homeowners and self-builders find out how much a ground source heat pump costs, and identify the best system design and RHI stream for their project.

Using the newly-launched resources on Kensa's website (www.kensaheatpumps.com/solutioncentre), self-builders can view example ground source heat pump costs and typical system set ups, as well as more innovative system designs featuring clusters of properties and those with high heat demands.

Stephanie Gregory, Marketing Manager at Kensa Heat Pumps, says: "Kensa's new online tools are in response to a growing number of diverse ground source heat pump enquiries, and help provide clarity and confidence to the market. Ground source heat pumps aren't a 'one-size-fits-all' technology, they flex to suit a wide variety of domestic and commercial scenarios, whether the project features one dwelling or many. And thanks to the RHI, as our costed examples demonstrate, there is a very attractive financial incentive to install ground source heat pumps in all cases."

The new website sections particularly highlight how ground source heat pump costs can be offset by a guaranteed income through the Government's Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), in addition to the significant fuel cost savings delivered by the energy-efficient and sustainable heating technology.

To help self-builders and homeowners identify which stream of the RHI their ground source heat pump project is eligible for - seven years of payments via the Domestic RHI, or 20 years via the Non-Domestic RHI - Kensa has also launched an online guide called 'Which RHI is right for me', here: www.kensaheatpumps.com/find-my-RHI.



www.kensaheatpumps.com/ solution-centre enquiries@kensaheatpumps.com







#### National Ventilation to showcase domestic ventilation range

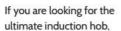
National Ventilation will be returning to the Homebuilding and Renovating



Show 2018 to exhibit its range of domestic ventilation solutions. Visitors to stand S553 will be able to view examples of heat recovery units, bathroom fans, ducting, mechanical extract ventilation units and positive pressure systems. Dedicated to homebuilders, self-builders and renovators, the Homebuilding and Renovating Show showcases latest products, technological advancements and best practices available in UK's construction industry today. During the two-day event, National Ventilation will be exhibiting a wide range of domestic ventilation products. Visitors will be able to find out more about National Ventilation's ventilation design service, which provides homebuilders and self-builders with a project-specific ventilation system design.

www.nationalventilation.co.uk 01823 690290 info@nvagroup.co.uk

#### Intelligent induction cooking with the Caple new C901i hob

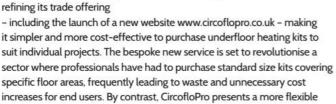


look no further than multi-award winning, appliance specialist Caple's new black glass, frameless Sense C901i. With exceptional functionality via specialised touch-controls, including an innovative pan mode, chef mode and the ability to allow you to save up to five of your most used cooking settings (called favourite), this five-zone model is ideal if you require highly intelligent functions and plenty of cooking space. With a child safety lock, residual heat indicators and automatic safety shut-off, this hob is ideal for family living.

www.caple.co.uk 0117 938 1900 enquiries@caple.co.uk

#### CircofloPro – bespoke kits to suit any size UFH installation

Omnie has responded to changing demand from the plumbing and professional heating installer market by refining its trade offering



approach to sizing, while also responding to various technical requirements.

www.omnie.co.uk 01392 363605 projects@omnie.co.uk

#### Matt black wetroom panel

Leading shower designer and manufacturer, Roman Limited, has introduced a matt black profile to its wetroom panel collection. The Liberty matt black wetroom panel has been

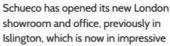


introduced to Roman's Liberty range with 10mm thick glass and a height of 2000mm. It features a matt black profile and a choice of square back to wall or ceiling bracing. This industrial style clear glass wetroom panel features a matt black profile, which will coordinate beautifully with black brassware across the bathroom. Black is one of the biggest bathroom trends at the moment and when you coordinate it throughout the bathroom it has the power to transform the room into a luxury retreat.

www.roman-showers.com

01325 311318 brochures@roman-showers.com

#### Schueco London opens new showroom and office





new premises at 153 Great Portland Street, W1. The move has been prompted by the need to expand Schueco's London operation and to make the Schueco product range and technical support services even more accessible to architects, main contractors, fabricators and endusers. The new premises – which are also home to the London office of Schueco International – include a spacious showroom on the ground floor with meeting rooms and a further display area and conference facilities on the lower ground floor. The upper and lower mezzanine floors are occupied by offices.

www.schueco.co.uk 01908 282111 mkinfobox@schueco.com

#### Remmers exhibits at Hayward Gallery

The world-renowned Hayward Gallery is a contemporary art gallery within Southbank Centre, London. As part of a two-year restoration project, Remmers' restoration products were selected



by Cemplas to complete extensive concrete repair and renovation works to the internal architectural concrete elements of this prestigious major arts venue. Remmers' Arte Mundit was applied to remove the decades of superficial dirt that had built up on the concrete walls and ceilings. Arte Mundit is a self-vulcanising cleaning paste that dries into a peelable natural latex. It provides thorough water-free removal of residues to varied substrates, and there is no development of dust making it the ideal product for specialised restoration projects.

www.remmers.co.uk 01293 594010 sales@remmers.co.uk









# DRU introduces new room-sealed versions of its Dik Geurts branded wood stoves

Dik Geurts is the brand name for the contemporary wood stoves that are designed and manufactured by DRU in the Netherlands.



Il the stoves and insert fires in the range have an A+ energy rating with high energy efficiency and are clean-burning with very low CO emissions, making them suitable for urban smokeless zones. They are compatible with the EU Ecodesign regulations and have DEFRA approval.

The most popular models are the Ivar stove and its more traditional version, the Aste, together with the Instyle and Prostyle ranges of built-in wood fires. There are two-, three-sided and tunnel models as well as designer stoves such as the dramatic, circular Odin.

Modern homes with triple A energy ratings are very well insulated and often require the addition of ventilation systems to introduce fresh air into the rooms. If an ordinary wood stove or fire is installed, the low air pressure in the home can result in combustion gases from the stove or fire entering the room, with obvious risks to the health of the occupants.

To eliminate this risk, DRU is producing room-sealed (RS) versions of its Dik Geurts branded stoves. These models have an entirely closed combustion system that draws air from outside the building and expels waste gases to the outside using the stove's integral flue. This means that there is no danger of combustion gases entering the room and the stoves are both clean-burning and highly efficient.

As of 1st July 2018, nine Dik Geurts stoves are available in room-sealed versions, with many more to follow soon. It is all part of DRU's commitment to produce the safest, most compatible and most environmentally-friendly woodburning appliances in the fireplace industry.

www.drufire.com info@drufire.co.uk 01617938700





## Seamless surfaces achieved with Osmo

With the famous spring clean season amongst us, professional decorator, JGDecorator, was contracted to renovate and refresh a composite oak kitchen worktop and shelving area in a family home.



Thanks to its hardwearing properties and aesthetically-pleasing finish, Osmo UK Polyx-Oil was the ideal choice to rejuvenate the high-traffic surfaces. The kitchen has a classic countryside look to it, so the client requested a natural finish that wouldn't distract from the design of the room. Jonathan Graham, a Partner in JGDecorator, recognised that the traditional oil-based finish that Osmo supplies would meet these requirements. Jonathan applied the premium finish with a synthetic brush, achieving a deep, long-lasting penetration, emphasising the wood's natural beauty. Due to Osmo UK finishes being very viscid and containing both oil and wax, the wood absorbs the finish to provide a smooth surface, resulting in the extra level of sanding not being required.

www.osmouk.com 01296 481220 sales@osmo.com

### Notching, grinding and welding with Andy Robinson Race Cars and FEIN UK



Andy Robinson fabricates and builds racing, off-road/rally, touring and hot rod cars. When building car chassis and roll cages, which require tube bending and welding work, Andy notches the tubing using a belt grinder.

Andy commented: "We can pretty much build a racing car from scratch, from a McClaren display car through to a replica chassis for a Shelby Daytona. We use a range of metal tools, but I'm delighted with the FEIN GX 75 belt grinder. The tooling and GRIT settings enable us to deliver the notching results needed with our pipework and, compared to anything else on the market, it offers great quality in terms of build and is mid-level in terms of cost, making the purchase one of superb value." To find out more about the GRIT GX 75 system, or the rest of the GRIT range, check out https://fein.com/en\_uk/belt-grinders.

fein.com/en\_uk/belt-grinders 01327 308730 sales@fein-uk.co.uk







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## Building your own 'lifetime home' made easy with H+H Celcon Blocks

Building your own home can be an exciting, if somewhat, daunting experience that requires careful research. Tony Wright considered a number of different approaches when looking for materials that would be suitable for his 'lifetime home'.

e initially considered using an insulated concrete formwork method of build but decided against this because he felt it was too specialist. Also considered was a Structural Insulated Panel (SIP) solution, however, Tony wanted both a robust build and easy-to-use materials, which led to his decision to specify the Thin-Joint method of construction.

Tony decided to use a combination of H+H High Strength Jumbo Bloks (7.3Nmm2) and H+H Standard Grade Blocks (3.6Nmm2) with Celfix Mortar, designed specifically for use as part of H+H's Thin-Joint system.

The site posed a number of logistical challenges, primarily the constrained size and shape of the garden plot. Therefore, aircrete's inherent properties of being lightweight and easy to lay and manipulate on site proved ideal for the job.

This was Tony's first time using the Thin-Joint system. He said: "I certainly liked using the products and found it relatively easy to build with them. I was also able to use up offcuts from the aircrete blocks throughout the property - I found it very easy to cut the blocks on site."

of aircrete, provides its Thin-Joint system as

a combination of aircrete blocks with Celfix Mortar, producing masonry with a 2mm joint rather than the standard 10mm, speeding up the build process and reducing thermal bridging.

The system combines 100mm aircrete blocks with cement-based Celfix Mortar rather than traditional sand-cement mortar.

Energy efficiency is often a key objective for self-builders who want to make sure their new home delivers the maximum possible benefits for them once complete. The minimal joint thickness achieved with H+H's Thin-Joint system is ideal for achieving this aim as it allows for maximum airtightness and maximum thermal performance.

Anna Williamson, Tony's Area Sales Manager, said: "From our point of view, it's been a delight working with Tony and his builders - they've been curious and keen to learn, supportive and proactive."

Tony added: "We had lots of visits from our area sales representative at the beginning of the build and when I needed to order additional products from H+H, they were able to assist with the delivery."

H+H aircrete is the perfect material for people who want to build their own home. Not only does it meet all the stringent requirements of Building Regulations, its inherent thermal, acoustic and load-bearing capabilities makes it a building material that is second to none. In addition to being lightweight and easy to use, H+H Celcon Blocks also have the benefit of high resistance to fire, sulphate attack, frost and water penetration.

www.hhcelcon.co.uk info@hhcelcon.co.uk 01732 886444



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## LEVATO MONO

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