



**Self Build Workshop - Discover the ABCs of homebuilding!**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February



## Presentation Timetable Friday 27<sup>th</sup> – Sustainability Theatre

**Centre doors open at 9:00 - Use this time to explore the exhibitor display stands and have 1:2:1 slots**

**10:00 – 10:25 | Introduction to Workshop & Project Management – Rob Bohm, NSBRC**

Rob introduces the key themes of today's workshop and explores the key questions to be asking.

**10:30 – 10:55 | Design Principles for Low Energy Homes– Jenny Chandela, AC Architects**

Jenny Chandela, a specialist in Low Energy Home Design, discusses how to consider your low energy targets early in your design process. Learn more about Fabric First, modern construction methods and some tips on getting the right team in place!

**11:00 – 11:25 | Finance & Funding – Tom McSherry, BuildStore**

This session is dedicated to methods of raising finance and the importance of setting a budget and controlling costs throughout the project.

**11:30 – 11:55 | Building with High Performance & Passivhaus Timber Frames – Max Ellis, MBC**

This presentation will briefly look at the advantages of building with timber frame and working with an offsite manufacturer and then take a deeper dive into the subtle differences between high-performance and Passivhaus construction.

**Short break for 1:2:1 appointments\* (12pm Exclusive to Benchmark Members – Self Build Q&A Expert Session on the Mezzanine with Complementary Lunch)**

**12:45 – 13:10 | Introduction to Structural Insulated Panels – Derek McIntyre, JML SIPs**

This session provides a clear, practical overview of Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) as a modern construction system for self-build projects. It explains what SIPs are, how they are used on site, and the benefits they can offer in terms of build speed, energy efficiency and airtightness. Attendees will also gain an understanding of key design and specification considerations, helping them decide whether SIPs are the right choice for their own project.

**13:15 – 13:40 | ICF The modern way to build a low energy cost effective home – Rob Squires, Beco,**

Focusing on BecoWallform and how ICF reduces energy costs and delivers exceptional U-Values, eliminates cold bridging and provides airtight homes in line with Fabric First principles. Overview of how Wallform works, its buildability and suitability for the self-build market.

**Short break for 1:2:1 appointments**

**14:10 – 14:35 | All you need to know about Rainwater harvesting – Tim Chantrell, Rainwater Harvesting**

Discover all you need to know about harvesting rainwater and how it can save you money and future-proof your home.

**14:35 – 15:00 | Know Your Trader: A Whistle-Stop Guide to Practical Checks You Can Do – Suzanne Dobbins, Which?**

This session provides a practical, easy-to-follow introduction to carrying out your own checks. A whistle-stop tour of simple checks you can do to help build confidence in a trader's credibility and reliability. The session is interactive and designed to prompt questions and discussion.

**15:00 – 15:25 | Benefits of Fabric First When Specifying Renewable Energy – Mike Shufflebotham, 21 Degrees**

A look at how improvements in building fabric impact heating demand, the size of the Heat Pump required and the number of Solar Panels.

**15:25 – 15:50 | Smart Homes Without the Stress - How to Get It Right First Time – Paul Foulkes, Theben**

This session dispels smart home myths and explains true automation beyond apps and voice assistants. Covers smart wiring, future proofing, wired vs wireless approaches and how LUXORliving integrates lighting, heating and shading into one system.

**15:55 – 16:30 | Exclusive to Benchmark Members – New Build Zone Tour with Rob Bohm**

**Centre closes at 17:30 - Use this time to explore the exhibitor display stands and remaining 1:2:1 slots**

**\*Places are limited, book your spot at the Booking Desk**

**Self Build Workshop - Discover the ABCs of homebuilding!**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February



## Presentation Timetable Saturday 28th – Sustainability Theatre

**Centre doors open at 9:00 - Use this time to explore the exhibitor display stands and have 1:2:1 slots**

**10:00 – 10:25 | Introduction to Workshop & Project Management – Rob Bohm, NSBRC**

Rob introduces the key themes of today's workshop and explores the key questions to be asking.

**10:30 – 10:55 | Design Principles with Eco Design Consultants – Alan Budden, ECO Design Consultants**

This presentation will introduce the core design principles that underpin the work of Eco Design Consultants. Alan will outline the practice's approach to creating high-performance, comfortable and environmentally responsible homes, drawing on experience from a range of residential projects. He will explore how early-stage design decisions can influence energy performance, build quality and long-term sustainability outcomes. Attendees will gain insight into the importance of fabric-first thinking, integrated design processes and practical strategies for achieving low-energy new homes.

**11:00 – 11:25 | Finance & Funding – Tom McSherry, BuildStore**

This session is dedicated to methods of raising finance and the importance of setting a budget and controlling costs throughout the project.

**11:30 – 11:55 | Building Better with Timber Frames – Fleming Homes**

Key insights on self-building with timber frame

**Short break for 1:2:1 appointments\***

**12:45 – 13:10 | Passive EcoWall – Ecological Building Systems**

A low-carbon solution for low-energy and Passivhaus buildings.

**13:15 – 13:40 | HEAT PUMP VENTILATION: one system, total comfort. Heating, cooling, fresh air and hot water...SORTED!' – Andrew Clapton, Total Home Environment**

What heat pump ventilation is, how it compares to heat recovery ventilation and all you need to know to have it installed in your home.

**Short break for 1:2:1 appointments**

**14:10 – 14:35 | Building Success: How to Choose the Right Trade and Manage Your Project with Confidence – Alli Gay, The Truth About Buildings & FMB**

Choosing the right tradespeople and managing them effectively is key to a successful project. This session combines the trusted standards of the Federation of Master Builders with practical advice from The Truth About Building, covering how to identify reliable trades, compare quotes, avoid common pitfalls, and confidently manage contracts, payment schedules, timelines, and communication, giving self-builders the tools they need for a smoother, more successful project.

**14:40 – 15:05 | Getting solar right in a Self-Build– Rhiannon Jones, GB Sol**

This session examines how thinking about solar PV early in the design process can save money, improve performance, and make meeting Part L and Net Zero targets much easier. It covers simple but important choices like house orientation, roof shape, shading, cable routes and space for equipment — helping you design a home that makes the most of the sun for years to come.

**15:10 – 15:35 | Smart Homes Without the Stress - How to Get It Right First Time – Paul Foulkes, Theben**

This session dispels smart home myths and explains true automation beyond apps and voice assistants. Covers smart wiring, future proofing, wired vs wireless approaches and how LUXORliving integrates lighting, heating and shading into one system.

**Centre closes at 17:30 - Use this time to explore the exhibitor display stands and remaining 1:2:1 slots**

**\*Places are limited, book your spot at the Booking Desk**