

NEWS RELEASE

BUILD YOUR WAY OUT OF THE CRUNCH

THE National Self Build & Renovation Centre is to host its second Self Build & Renovation Show of the year in October, (Thursday 2nd – Sunday 5th October 2008) offering plenty of advice and inspiration for anyone looking to climb up the property ladder through self build or renovation.

Whilst the wider housing market is suffering a major downturn, brought on by the credit crunch, building your dream home, through self build, renovation, or conversion is becoming a more appealing and realistic option. At a time when housebuilders have 'downed tools' and the Government's new homes targets are under threat, self builders and renovators are taking advantage of the increased availability of land, labour and specialist advance payment mortgages.

BuildStore, the self build and renovation experts behind the National Self Build & Renovation Centre, are the leading providers of self build and renovation advance payment finance, and also own land-finding database, PlotSearch (www.plotsearch.co.uk). BuildStore recently revealed that the number of self build land and renovation opportunities had grown significantly in 2008, up 20% between January and June, and over half of available self build plots are priced £150,000 or less; a third of them £100,000 or less, making it possible to self build a detached family home for less than £200,000.

With many people still needing to get on or move up the property ladder, The National Self Build & Renovation Show, sponsored by EDF Energy, featuring the Big Green Pavilion, will show visitors how to build their way out of the housing slump, through self build, renovation, or home improvement.

BuildStore's National Self Build & Renovation Centre in Swindon will host the Self Build & Renovation Show, where visitors can discover the many inspirational and educational features and exhibits, including a full-size timber frame Potton house, and a renovation house, a self build education journey and a Trade Village.

They will be inspired by great ideas in design and innovation and can get the inside knowledge on everything they need to know to build their dream home.

There will be a packed programme throughout the four-day Show, featuring 'walking seminars', product demonstrations, and presentations. Visitors can learn about finding land and renovation properties, securing finance, and buying materials from self build and renovation experts, book one-to-one sessions with CAD designers to bring their plans to life, meet self build and renovation guru Tommy Walsh, and learn how to make their homes more energy efficient in the Big Green Pavilion, with Burdens Environmental, leaders in delivering sustainable construction.

Tim Doherty, managing director of the National Self Build & Renovation Centre, comments: "Our Show is interactive and dynamic, and with a refreshing mix of seminars, face-to-face consultations with experts, practical 'hands-on' demonstrations, inspiring and informative exhibits, and live product showcases, all under one roof - it's unlike any other event or exhibition. Whether you need help choosing your building system, want to learn how to tackle problems found in a renovation property, discover the latest in home appliances and tools, find reputable tradesmen, or discover the benefits and pay-back of the latest eco products, you can learn it all at the Show and really get your property projects off the ground."

The Self Build & Renovation Show will run between Thursday 2nd and Sunday 5th October, at the National Self Build & Renovation Centre in Swindon, off Junction 16, M4. Pre-book on the website for free tickets. Entry on the day is £10 per adult, or £15 per couple. For daily schedules, and ticket booking, log on to www.mykindofhome.co.uk/show

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

BuildStore, the company behind the National Self Build & Renovation Centre, offers an end-to-end service to the self builder and people wanting to renovate or convert an existing property. To capture this rapidly growing market, The National Self Build and Renovation Centre was opened in January 2007.

The 67,000 sq ft Centre is on a different scale to anything seen before in the UK self build and renovation sector. It has a dual role of helping to educate people interested in self building and renovating and ensuring those actively building can find all the services and materials they need.

Visitors can learn about the different stages of the self build and renovation process from the "Education Zone", which features six life-sized exhibits including, plant, groundworks, walls and roof structures. They can also find inspiration inside the Potton show home, and in the "Renovation Zone", discover techniques for renovating, with a full-sized house transformed from an 'old wreck' to a fully renovated home.

For visitors just starting their self build or renovation journey, the National Self Build & Renovation Centre can help them find a plot of land, renovation or conversion opportunities, with PlotSearch, consider finance options for their project with the in-house financial advisors, or simply get advice from the team of experts. Those actively involved in the process can take advantage of TradeCard, a unique card which offers discounted prices building materials and tool hire from leading merchants and suppliers. Plus, over 240 industry suppliers showcase their products and services in a dedicated "Trade Village", complete with a bar code system, allowing visitors to easily order brochures and further information, which will be sent to them at home.

For more information, or to request an interview with Tim Doherty or Tommy Walsh, please contact:

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