

NEWS RELEASE: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008

## OUTDOOR LIVING

With the cold dark nights of winter almost over, and the warm sunny evenings of spring and summer to look forward to, the National Self Build & Renovation Centre in Swindon is lending a green-fingered hand to anyone wanting to make the most of their outdoor space. On April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, the Centre will present a special Outdoor Living event to educate and inspire visitors to create or update their gardens, patios and courtyards, just in time for the summer.

Visitors to the Outdoor Living weekend can learn how to boost their 'kerb appeal' with a feature presentation on hard landscaping, and green-fingered inspiration comes from Wienerberger, who'll be showing visitors how to create the perfect low-maintenance garden to, including pavers, rockeries, and ponds. Garden designer Jill Blackwood will also be sharing her garden wisdom, with some of her top tips for garden design, and will be displaying some of her inspirational designs, including her 'Bonnie Burn' garden, which won her a Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Silver Medal award in 2006.

The Centre's demonstration area will host eight different product demonstrations each day, where visitors can learn about and compare the latest innovations and materials, including the newest outdoor lighting and audio systems; sun rooms, conservatories and garden offices; and spas and jacuzzis.

As well as picking up tips and advice on making the best use of outdoor space, the National Self Build & Renovation Centre's permanent features and exhibits can provide visitors with innovative ideas and products to create the perfect outdoor space, to suit any budget. Visitors can browse 240 permanent stands from leading product manufacturers and suppliers, and take advantage of some exclusive discounts and special offers on materials, tool and plant hire, with a TradeCard.

Tim Doherty, Managing Director at the National Self Build & Renovation Centre commented: "It's a common mistake to forget about the outdoor space when planning and budgeting for a self build or renovation project. However, it's important to think about how you live *outside* your house, as well as how you live *in* it. The right surroundings can help complement the rest of the house, add value and appeal to a property, and a well planned garden can act as an extended living space, providing another 'room'. What's more, you can also save money by including hard landscaping in your overall project budget, as self builders and renovators can reclaim the VAT on materials purchased. With practical advice, the latest products and materials, and a host of ideas, visitors to the event can learn how to create their ideal outdoor living space."

The Outdoor Living event will run on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2008, at the National Self Build & Renovation Centre, sponsored by EDF Energy in Swindon. Entry cost £8 per adult, or £12 per couple. For more information, or to book tickets, log on to [www.mykindofhome.co.uk](http://www.mykindofhome.co.uk) or call 01506 409 616.

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors:**

A ticket offer for this event is available for all your readers/listeners/viewers. To arrange an offer and set up a promotion code, please contact Jaclyn Thorburn on 01506 409 466 or email [jaclyn.thorburn@buildstore.co.uk](mailto:jaclyn.thorburn@buildstore.co.uk)

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 February 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, please contact:**

Jaclyn Thorburn  
PR & Communications Manager  
BuildStore Ltd.  
Direct: 01506 409 466  
Mobile: 07809 583 116  
Email: [jaclyn.thorburn@buildstore.co.uk](mailto:jaclyn.thorburn@buildstore.co.uk)