

THIS WILL BE RELEASED ON 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006

## **New Centre Puts Building Trade in Touch with Consumers of Britain's Multi-Billion Self Build and Renovation Market**

A new centre that gives the building trade, including merchants, direct and year-round access to thousands of people undertaking self build or renovation projects is set to open in Swindon in January 2007.

The National Self Build and Renovation Centre will be a focal point for those looking to build and renovate homes. By bringing together all the products, services and advice required for self build or renovation under one roof for the first time, the Centre will be a magnet for the potential customer. The Centre is the brainchild of **BuildStore**, the pioneering self build and renovation experts.

Products and services involved at every phase of the self-build or renovation process will be on permanent display at the Centre all year round. This gives trade specialists involved in every aspect of home building and renovation easy and direct access to consumers. The Centre also provides great networking opportunities for those in the building trade, giving them a regular place to meet and discuss current issues and trends within the industry.

Seminars and a product demonstration zone will allow companies to showcase their products and services in a unique environment, giving consumers the opportunity to better understand how to use their products and see how they work in action.

Raymond Connor, chief executive of BuildStore said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for the building trade to access a booming market. Thousands of customers will be drawn to the Centre where they will find everything they need to complete their project, making the Centre the ideal place for the trade to exhibit the products and services needed at every stage of the building process."

With an estimated 20,000 people building their own new homes in Britain each year<sup>1</sup>, self builders are now the country's leading developer, outstripping even the biggest commercial house builders and creating an estimated £6.6bn worth of new homes<sup>2</sup>. Renovation projects are also on the rise with 42% of homeowners looking to

renovate or extend their properties<sup>3</sup>. Last year alone over 300,000 applications for residential planning permission were submitted<sup>4</sup>.

The 67,000 sqft National Centre will help visitors through every step of the self build or renovation journey, from finding a plot right through to completing their project and moving into their dream home. Key features will include:

- A “trade village” with products from over 250 suppliers, including merchants, a bar code system allowing visitors to easily order brochures and further information
- A massive array of fixtures, finishes and material choices allowing visitors to make informed choices for their home interiors.
- An Educational Zone allowing visitors to see for themselves how a house is built - key features will include life sized exhibits such as plant, groundworks, walls and roof structures
- Interactive demonstrations offering the opportunity to learn key skills such as bricklaying, tiling and laying floors and landscaping.
- The Design Centre, featuring the UK’s biggest range of designs and house styles, including how to design a kitchen and bathroom.
- Renovation Zone showing how a wreck can be turned into a new home
- A full-size Potton Show House
- Face-to-face advice from a specialist Finance Centre dedicated to self build and renovation finance.
- Plotsearch Theatre, showing what to look out for when searching for land and property via a specialist UK database giving access to over 6,000 plots and properties.
- Details of how to save thousands on building materials with BuildStore’s Trade Card.

The Centre will also include a 200 seat lecture theatre which will host seminars, themed events on a wide range of topics from finding to designing a home and decorating and a dedicated area for product demonstrations such as installing guttering or laying different types of flooring.

The National Centre will be open all year round from 10am to 6pm. Admission will cost £10 at weekends and £8 during the week if booked advance on-line, or £2 extra

if arriving at the door. Those interested in displaying products and services at the Centre should contact Debbie Buggins on 01506 409450

**- Ends -**

**For further information please contact  
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## Notes to Editors:-

BuildStore, the creators of the National Self Build and Renovation Centre offers an end-to-end service to the self-builder and people wanting to renovate or convert an existing property. Visit the website at [www.buildstore.co.uk](http://www.buildstore.co.uk) to see how much it would cost to build a home and how many plots are for sale. BuildStore's core services include:

- The National Self Build and Renovation Centre, Swindon and the Scottish Self Build and Renovation Centre, Livingston.
- Land finding via its PlotSearch Online database, the largest in the UK with unique aerial photographs to view the plots prior to visiting the site.
- Fully trained mortgage advisors who understand what financial support self builders and renovators require.
- Expert and professional services to support self builders with the design, co-ordination and construction of their build.
- A Trade Account for self build, renovation and home improvement which guarantees low prices and expert service on materials to consumers via Jewson, Build Centre and other trade suppliers.

## References

1. Buildstore
  2. Buildstore
  3. MoneySupermarket
  4. Office of National Statistics
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