



# 'The house of the near future' Picture this in your mind ...

**A HOUSE where you drive in the garage after a day at work and plug your electric car straight into a charging point ready for the next day.**

A house with highly insulated walls, roof and floors. A house reusing the heat produced from your bathroom, kitchen and electrical devices, circulated around the home using a heat recovery system, so that you do not need a boiler for additional heating. Your hot water supplied predominantly throughout the year harnessing the sun.

Solar panels generating electricity which can be plugged into the grid, so that each house becomes a mini power station.

Believe it or not this is not as far away as we think. It is starting to happen.

The government are pushing more environmentally friendly buildings and are beginning to push developers to create more eco-friendly homes. You have probably started to see new build housing offering their new eco estates.

This is very much the way new housing is heading and with the constant rise in fuel prices it will save the user money. Many people want to switch from gas and oil due to the high costs from the energy supplier. By having a home that requires no heating is a way of alleviating our dependency on fossil fuels in our homes.

What this means is that with the depletion of fossil fuels at an

alarming rate and humans increasing dependence on electricity, due to technological advances, our homes will become more about electricity, which has the ability to be 100% efficient.

A highly insulated timber frame extension can become the most comfortable room in your house. This is a quick and easy installation process that does not require the costly labour process associated with traditional build. So you can actually create an extension that is cheaper to build in the first instance and requires little of no additional heating requirements. This I think is where the industry is changing and where it is becoming very exciting.

So if you have a new build or extensions in mind why not try us-

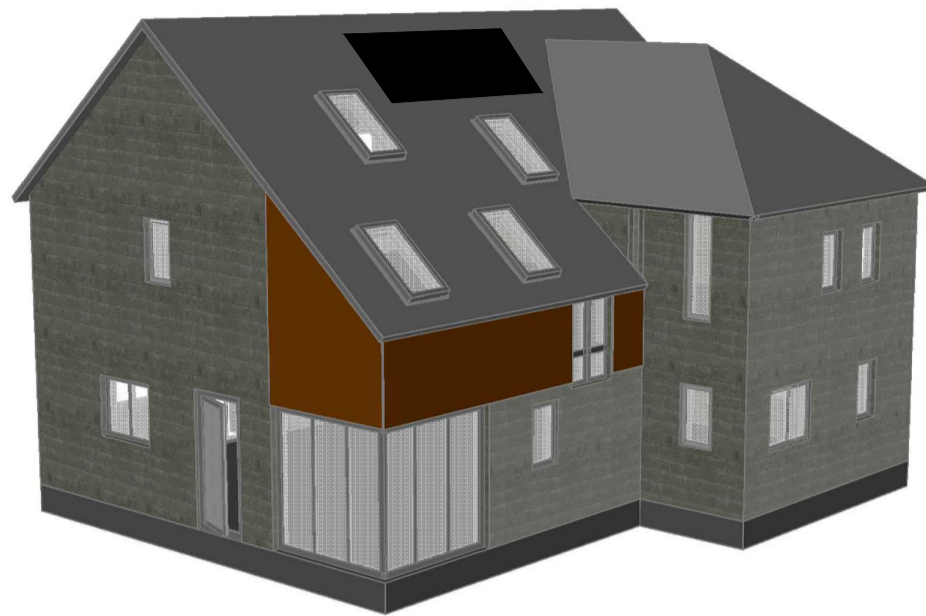
ing eco building materials and let your designer lead you in the way these should be used.

These materials are becoming more widely available with building merchants specialising in 'eco' and even an 'eco section' of your local 'Jewson's' materialising.

There are eco products out there that are high priced and only affordable to the more affluent among us. However there are also many cost effective products that give us the opportunity to build the houses of tomorrow, today.

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## Energy/cost saving measures you can make in your home today:

- Turn down the boiler including insulating your hot water cylinder
- Cavity wall insulation, Loft insulation and Floor insulation
- Upgrade your heating system if it is old to a much more efficient one
- Double or triple glazing Draught proofing Thick curtains
- Fit energy saving light bulbs
- Installing an energy meter so you can see how much energy you are using
- Unplug any appliances on standby Switching to a different energy supplier

## 'Eco friendly' doesn't cost the earth

**AT Eco Architectural we believe that everyone should have the option to choose environmentally friendly building techniques**

**within their building project whether it is to be a new house or a simple extension.**

practices and due to our lower output costs compared with many larger companies do not have to charge the client accordingly the deliver the same quality assurance.

We believe this to be one of our major strengths and are proud to be able to offer our clients along with no charging VAT which enables to provide our clients with substantial savings to clients who are not VAT registered.

### Our services include:

Planning and building regulations (free illustrative 3D walk-through offered with all planning drawings): We give guidance to help our clients achieve a successful completion on building project, how long it may take and at what cost.

Unfortunately the high cost of these materials and building techniques in recent years mean these systems are often overlooked.

We are working to change this by offering our services, starting with a free consultation, to help show people that it doesn't cost the earth to create eco friendly' buildings in fact prices could vary from as little as a few hundred pounds depending on the complexity of the job.

Eco Architectural is committed to our clients, we are not a profit driven organisation like many other

3D Drawings - this is a great way for a client to visualise a building before it is built, often difficult to imagine on a standard 2d plan.

New build/extensions / loft conversions: We will give you free advice on whether you will require planning permission, often a property has permitted development rights and therefore planning may not be needed.

Refurbishment: Whether it is simple internal works or more costly external remodelling this can bring an existing building into the present day with simple material changes and possible minor alterations.

Measured surveys: We are able to offer CAD floor plans of existing properties, these are very effective on older buildings where walls are not always square.

Maintenance Management: Many build-

ings, particularly in the commercial sector are poorly managed.

It is our thought that this poor management leads to a building becoming less environmentally friendly than it should be.

Simple steps can be

taken to reduce the impact our buildings have and we work closely with our clients to ensure their buildings are running as environmentally friendly as possible, helping the environment and building running costs.

**ECO ARCHITECTURAL**

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Planning • Building Regulations  
Free 3D Walkthrough • 3D Drawings • Measured Surveys  
Maintenance Management  
New Build, Extensions, Loft Conversions, Refurbishment



## Greener Motoring

# Alternative fuel cars making their way onto the market

**THESE days, new cars are being fitted with all sorts of kit to help them get further for their fuel; including things like start-stop systems, new direct injection engines and improved gearboxes.**

But these improvements to conventionally fuelled cars are just the first step in the frantic race to reduce dependence on dwindling oil supplies.

New, 'alternative fuel' cars are also making their way onto the market.

TheGreenCarWebsite.co.uk presents a brief outline of the history-and the future-of greener motoring.

### Hybrid and range-extended cars

The first hybrid car to arrive

in the UK was the Toyota Prius in 2000.

Full hybrid cars like the Prius use two drivetrains; an electric motor and a combustion engine and can recapture braking energy to maximise fuel efficiency.

The hybrid line-up has expanded rapidly over the last few years.

This year sees the launch of the first diesel hybrid, the Peugeot 3008 Hybrid4, while next year we welcome the first 'range extended' cars.

Range extended models; like the Vauxhall Ampera and its twin, the Chevrolet Volt work like hybrids in that they combine use two drivetrains, the main difference is that make greater use of electric drive.

But watch out for plug-in hybrids coming soon too, which can recharge from the mains like a full electric car.

### Electric cars

Widely dubbed the 'year of the electric car', 2011 has seen the first electric cars from mainstream car makers go on sale.

Battery electric vehicles also known as EVs or BEVs now on sale in the UK include the Nissan Leaf and Mitsubishi i-MiEV, with more EVs due out next year including Renault's Z.E range.

Although limited in driving range and criticised for their high-price, expect prices to fall over the coming years as production increases, while research has shown that the driving range is more than enough for the average daily commute.

### Hydrogen fuel cell

Hydrogen fuel cell cars are expected to arrive on the market by around the 2015, as firms such as Daimler, Toyota and

Honda work to make them a market reality.

Like conventional cars, they can offer a range of 100s miles to a tank, but emit only water as a tailpipe emission, making them useful for reducing localised air pollution.

### Ever-changing market

While it is expected that cars are going to become increasingly diversely fuelled over the coming years; that doesn't mean to say that petrol and diesel cars are finished.

But the new car market will offer a greater choice over the next 50 years; with every manufacturer eager to boast the green credentials of their new models.

