

FORMATION

News, views and information from FORM Design Architecture

ENERGY EXPERTISE AT FORM

The Met Office is reporting 2009 as one of the warmest years on record. With climate change and depletion of fossil fuels now fully on the agenda, we all need to learn to live without our dependence now.

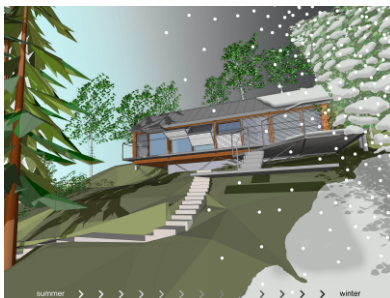
NEW BUILD

For new build housing projects, the Code for Sustainable Homes sets the standards. Here at FORM we have invested in training in the Code and can offer in house expertise. In addition to this, our long term associate Cath Roberts has recently built her own zero fossil house with her husband Steve Harris. It combines super insulated thermally massive construction with renewable technologies. She can offer advice and expertise on all new projects based on first hand experience of designing and building a zero fossil development.

REFURBISHMENT

Housing accounts for over 25% of the UK's CO2 emissions, and so upgrading existing housing is going to be a major focus nationally, over the coming years. Many of FORM's projects involve the re-use of existing buildings, and whether housing or another sector, these projects offer a great opportunity to boost the energy performance. Whether your project is the refurbishment of a hotel in a historic building or the remodelling of a 20th Century office building, we can offer the additional service of specialist energy consultancy.

ON SITE



One of our most innovative projects, currently under construction, is a new build retreat on the South Coast. With mains water and electricity being the only services to site, alternative technologies have been at the forefront of the design. The house is constructed on a deck which appears to float over the cliff, thanks to an apparently gravity defying steel structure. A log burning stove will provide the space heating to the main room, which combined with good levels of insulation and double glazing, will provide the main source of space heating. Water conservation will be achieved through rainwater harvesting. The house will include the practice's first composting toilet. The design also includes a heat pump installation, together with a 1kw array of photovoltaics.