

Canadian log home company gains LABC approval...

TRUE NORTH LOG HOMES, a leading Canadian provider of high-end custom log homes, has received building type and system approval by the Local Authority Building Control (LABC) for their advanced log wall system. The LABC represents the building control departments within the local authorities of England and Wales, and ensures that buildings are healthy, safe, sustainable and accessible for all users. True North Log Homes owns multiple patents, including their innovative log wall system that is included in each home they build, for which they've received approval from the LABC. True North uses the naturally occurring shrinkage in their wood homes to its fullest advantage to make the log home airtight. As a True North log home settles, it actually ratchets itself tight pulling the log interfaces and keylock systems together. Their system is guaranteed for twenty-five years, and even the corners and butt joints will not leak air – making for an exceptionally efficient home for heating and cooling.

www.TrueNorthLogHomes.com



The Citadel – a 3309ft² (307m²) Canadian style log home, featuring a double height 'greatroom' – was built for Rob Wrightman, the owner of True North Log Homes.



Grand Designs goes live at London's Excel. Selfbuilders and home owners are expected to turn out in force for next month's Grand Designs Live at London's ExCel in the Docklands. TV presenter Kevin McCloud will join a host of celebrities at the event which runs from April 25 to May 4. **More page 122**

AWARD IN MEMORY OF SELF BUILD PIONEER

The National Self Build Association has launched an award to highlight the nation's most determined or innovative selfbuilder. The Murray Armor Award, named in memory of the self build pioneer and author, will carry an annual prize of £200. NaSBA believes there are many selfbuilders out there who have battled against the odds to get their homes built. If you are one of them, then you should put your name forward. The judges include TV presenters Tommy Walsh and Claire Rendall, plus several of the NaSBA committee.

Green Building Council calls for 'MOT' on buildings

A THIRD PAYING TOO MUCH FOR HOUSE INSURANCE

Nearly one in three (30%) Britons think that the rebuild cost of their property is the same or more than the current market value, according to insurance broker Confused.com. Research carried out by Confused.com, spanning six months, showed that 10% of consumers thought that the rebuild cost and market value were the same, and 20% thought that rebuild cost was even higher – a mistake which could prove to be costly to 30% of Britons. To help consumers get accurate quotes, Confused.com has launched a rebuild calculator, provided by the Building Cost Information Service, which will automatically determine a home's rebuild value using information provided by the customer.

The UK Green Building Council

has announced its plans for a Code for Sustainable Buildings that would require both new and existing buildings to pass a kind of building MOT requiring them to deliver steady improvements in energy efficiency.

The code, which has been developed over the last six months with contributions from some of the biggest players in the UK construction and property management sectors, will be presented to the government and, it is hoped, will be formally adopted as an alternative to the UK's various green building regulations and standards.

"At the moment the practical delivery and management of sustainable buildings is being held up by a confusing myriad of different sustainability policies, regulations, tools and standards," said Paul King, chief executive of the GBC.

"The Code for Sustainable Buildings should establish one clear policy and regulatory trajectory towards a sustainable built environment, to show where we need to get to, by when."

The new code builds on the government's existing Code for Sustainable Homes, but whereas those guidelines focused only on new-build domestic properties and the government's target to ensure all new homes are zero carbon by 2016, the new code covers all buildings, including both existing and new-build.

"The Code for Sustainable Homes marked an important departure from all regulations and voluntary standards that went before, by setting a trajectory to zero carbon," said King. "This has resulted in an unprecedented level of innovation in the house building sector. The Code for Sustainable Buildings should progressively drive up performance across the whole non-domestic building stock on a range of sustainability impacts and targets."

Central to the proposals are environmental impact performance checks – characterised as a kind of 'building MOT' – that would assess the carbon, energy, waste and water performance of all new and existing buildings at regular intervals throughout their life.