

# Best Eco Home



## ZERO-CARBON DWELLING

The brief didn't sound very straightforward: to take a raised deckhouse built in the Sixties and reduce its carbon footprint to nothing. Nevertheless, the air-tightness of the finished deckhouse is impressive and the levels of insulation in the roof, walls and floors exceed Building Regulations for brand-new dwellings – quite a feat. Of course, there wouldn't have been much point insulating the walls and everything else if the windows were going to leak precious warm air and let in the cold. As a result, the deckhouse boasts high-spec argon-filled double-glazing units with interstitial blinds (that's blinds that are set between the layers of glass to maximise the warmth of the sun but minimise draughts). From its marina-side location, the building is a stunning monochrome structure quite unlike anything else; the black and white theme continues throughout the interior – a simple, stylish look that makes the diminutive space seem larger than it actually is. Thanks to its umpteen eco features – which also include 10 photovoltaic panels and a thermal solar heating system – the deckhouse now provides carbon neutral holiday accommodation for half the year.

**The Deckhouse by Black Architecture (020 7021 0068; [black-architecture.com](http://black-architecture.com))**

## The Finalists



**Large, open-plan family home**  
Dolphin Place by Jane Duncan Architects (01494 766 999; [janeduncanarchitects.co.uk](http://janeduncanarchitects.co.uk))



**Classic meets modern build**  
Hall Farm by Bench Architects (01298 23991; [bencharchitects.co.uk](http://bencharchitects.co.uk))



**400-year-old barn goes eco**  
Barnsley Hill Farm by Stonebee Developments ([stonebee.co.uk](http://stonebee.co.uk))



**Outdoor natural beauty**  
New Forest House by Perring Architecture & Design (01590 670 780; [padstudio.co.uk](http://padstudio.co.uk))



**Welsh passive solar house**  
Ty Pren by Feilden Fowles (07866 586 675; [feildenfowles.co.uk](http://feildenfowles.co.uk))



**Sustainability in the suburbs**  
Laburnum by Shepherd Myers LLP and Shape Property Development (0800 032 7852; [shepherdmyers.co.uk](http://shepherdmyers.co.uk))