

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)

The Finalists



Large, open-plan family home
Dolphin Place by Jane Duncan Architects (01494 766 999; janeduncanarchitects.co.uk)



Classic meets modern build
Hall Farm by Bench Architects (01298 23991; bencharchitects.co.uk)



400-year-old barn goes eco
Barnsley Hill Farm by Stonebee Developments (stonebee.co.uk)



Outdoor natural beauty
New Forest House by Perring Architecture & Design (01590 670 780; padstudio.co.uk)



Welsh passive solar house
Ty Pren by Feilden Fowles (07866 586 675; feildenfowles.co.uk)



Sustainability in the suburbs
Laburnum by Shepherd Myers LLP and Shape Property Development (0800 032 7852; shepherdmyers.co.uk)