

INTEGRATED ENVELOPES

MMC Magazine looks into the Litchfield Group's package addressing the Code for Sustainable Homes.



Brooklyn House, the site is situated on the edge of the Evening Hill Conservation Area, approximately 200 metres from Poole Harbour.

The devil, they say, is in the detail, so arguably the guardian angel looking after the performance of the Litchfield Group's solution to sustainable design must surely be found in the fact that the member companies have responsibility for all the interfaces around the building elevations.

As an internationally active business, with manufacturing operations in Germany, Poland and America as well as the UK, The Litchfield Group can offer specifiers an integrated package that installs high performance windows and doors in an extremely airtight shell of Insulated Concrete Formwork. Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 is a 'gimme', and higher standards are mainly dependant on the renewables the customer chooses to bolt on.

James Litchfield of The Litchfield Group reports: "The ICF Tech system is specifically designed to accommodate the group's UK designed and manufactured window, door, conservatory and roofline systems, as well as the internal skirtings, architraves and trims."

The openings in the concrete filled polystyrene formers are of course fitted with Masterdor doorsets able to meet the highest standards of weather-tightness, and the newly introduced Sheerframe HED or Homogenous Energy Dynamics window units.

The latter, BFRC A+ rated windows are produced by group member company, L.B. Plastics to offer U-values of as low as 0.8 W/m²K, the benchmark for Levels 5 and 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes.

David Strang, the Marketing Director at LB Plastics, relates: "With £8 billion allocated for affordable housing between 2008 and 2011, as many RSLs embark on new-

build programmes, many social housing providers will want to build them to a zero carbon standard. Sheerframe windows will help them to do that.

"The Sheerframe HED system creates stronger, lighter, greener and significantly more thermally efficient windows, offering social housing providers a simple, financially viable route to meeting the Code for Sustainable Homes.

"The new system revolutionises the performance of windows, and how we fabricate them. There are multiple

"The thermal mass of the concrete wall stabilises the temperature of the interior, making homes warm in winter and cool in summer; therefore reducing fuel bills, and producing a smaller carbon footprint."

benefits for social housing specifiers: principally the HED's ability to achieve an ultra low U-value, well below the 1.8 W/m²K required of current Building Regulations." As for the walls within which the doors and windows will be installed and sealed, ICF Tech is claimed by consortium to offer the only insulated concrete formwork system specifically developed for the UK climate and market. It is also able to provide a 10 per cent price advantage over traditional masonry methods of constructing building elevations.

Importantly ICF tech also includes the all important bracing to keep walls plumb, floor supports and frame acceptors/cavity closers.

The Technical Manager for ICF Tech, Mr Graham Howarth,

