

London

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UK ARCHITECTS CHALLENGED TO DESIGN LIFETIME HOME

Kosi Architects' "Sunny-side up house" voted winner by 12,000 Mail on Sunday readers

Following the successful legacies of The Barratt Green House (2007 Home for the Future) and Crest Nicholson's Avanti Lifestyle House (2008 Lifestyle Homes) the 2009 Mail on Sunday British Homes Awards challenged UK's architects to design a Lifetime home for our ageing population.

In his foreword to the CLG paper: Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods published in February last year the Prime Minister wrote:

"we don't just need more homes, we need more quality homes. Homes that are designed and built to a high standard, and that respond to one of the biggest challenges of 21st century- the challenge of an ageing population"

Sponsored by VELUX and in partnership with CLG, BRE, MBE KTN, Stannah Stairlifts, Help the Aged and NHBC, the 2009 design competition challenged architects and interior designers to submit their vision of a Lifetime Home, incorporating innovative products, sympathetic design ideas and relevant technologies.

The readers of The Mail on Sunday voted in their thousands for their favourite design from the 7 schemes short-listed by the Panel of Judges, chaired by the Immediate Past President of RIBA, Sunand Prasad.

Presenting the Award to Kosi Architects' Richard Hutchinson at The London Marriott Grosvenor Square Tom Wright, Chief Executive of Age Concern and Help the Aged said

"The house building industry needs to rise to the challenge of an ageing population and help to deliver flexible and accessible housing that promotes independent living and works for all generations. This competition further demonstrates that lifetime design standards are realistic, cost effective and achievable for all new homes."

Recognising that the winning design could become a benchmark prototype for our future homes Kevin Brennan, Head of Sustainable Development at VELUX commented:

"Building a sustainable home is not just about reducing carbon emissions, but about reflecting the important balance between energy design and a high liveability factor, including comfort, health and wellbeing. The characteristics required to design lifetime homes for our ageing population are a key component of this balance, placing people at the heart of the design rather than requiring them to live as a consequence of it."

ENDS

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Notes to Editors:

Visit www.britishhomesawards.com for information on the Awards

The design brief for Lifetime Homes. Lifetime Neighbourhoods can be downloaded at www.britishhomesawards.com/designbrief.asp

NHBC (the National House Building Council), is the standard setting body and leading warranty and insurance provider for new and newly converted homes in the UK.

BRE is a research and consultancy organisation, which has maintained a specialism in housing issues since its formation over 80 years ago. Through its developing Innovation Park and The Barratt Green House House, BRE and its partners have been helping to shape a future vision for housing.

STANNAH STAIRLIFTS

Stannah is a British family owned company that has been making innovative products for over 180 years and since 1975, it has drawn on its technical experience to manufacture and install stairlifts of the highest quality to over a quarter of a million satisfied customers in more than 40 countries.

Stannah Stairlifts aims to promote independence in the home and is working with those in the housing industry to encourage building and designs which enable the ageing population to easily adapt their homes to fulfil this objective.

AGE CONCERN AND HELP THE AGED

Age Concern and Help the Aged have joined together to form a single charity dedicated to improving the lives of older people. The charity believes that all newly built homes should meet Lifetime Homes Standards, so if our needs change during our lives, our housing is flexible enough to make it easier for people to live as independently as possible

MBE KTN aims to stimulate increased innovation and support its effective implementation for business benefit.

VELUX supports architecture that promotes natural daylight and ventilation, incorporating design solutions that future- proof the building's use, and make every effort to reduce energy consumption. A natural evolution for VELUX was a move into the renewable technology sector with the launch of its WRAS approved Solar Hot Water System. The VELUX Solar Hot Water System combines VELUX's flair for exceptional roof products with energy produced by the sun to create an integrated water-heating system that is ideal for new and existing properties.

KOSI ARCHITECTS consists of Agata Perepeczo, Richard Hutchinson, Valentina Del Fuoco and Warren Rosing and was formed in 2008. They have all worked together at various stages in the past and collectively have worked on a varied and high quality pedigree of award winning and high quality residential architecture.

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