

News Release:

BARRATT BUILD ARCHITECT'S AWARD WINNING HOME FOR THE FUTURE

The UK's largest house-builder, Barratt, is to build a zero carbon prototype home using an award winning design by architects Gaunt Francis. A 22,000 strong public vote selected "The Green House" from nine designs short-listed by a distinguished panel of judges led by the former president of RIBA, Michael Manser, CBE.

The Home for the Future competition challenged architects and developers to produce a mainstream house type with reduced carbon emissions as part of the 2007 Mail on Sunday British Homes Awards sponsored by NHBC.

"The Green House" will now be built on BRE's Innovation Park and used as part of the research and education programme to help the house-building industry respond to the zero carbon agenda.

Mark Clare, Barratt Developments Chief Executive said: "We are delighted to be building this home that is likely to be one the lowest emission houses ever constructed in this country. It will combine outstanding design, the highest standards of energy efficiency and the use of innovative microgeneration. Importantly the design was selected by members of the public so it brings together both low emissions and popular support."

The Gaunt Francis design includes recycled slag foundations, lime/hem render walls and pitched roofs of photovoltaic panels. The heating is controlled by a central computer system with internet-linked, energy-efficient appliances.

Andrew Sutton, an associate at Gaunt Francis, said: "It's a fantastic opportunity to tackle the current environmental issues with mass housing design alongside one of the biggest house builders in order to provide versatile, good quality spaces with pragmatic, effective sustainability built in from the foundations up".

The project will be managed by the National Centre for Excellence in Housing, a partnership between NHBC and BRE, which has been tasked by the government to co-ordinate research and information to help meet the Government's proposed 2016 target for zero carbon new homes.

Rt. Hon. Nick Raynsford, former Housing Minister and Chair of the National Centre, said: "The house-building industry has been hunting for leadership to help deliver zero carbon homes within a decade. The National Centre will provide an important interchange of knowledge and information across the whole agenda."

Imtiaz Farookhi, NHBC Chief Executive and member of the Government's 2016 Taskforce, said: "A huge amount of research and work is needed to support the industry and to ensure that consumers are not used as guinea pigs in the drive to achieve zero carbon. It is a very important step to have a leading volume house-builder constructing this design at BRE so technologies can be tried and tested to ensure they bring real benefits for consumers and the environment."

Mark Clare, Barratt Chief executive also said, “Building this home will provide an invaluable insight into how best zero carbon homes can be constructed. We are determined to take what we can learn from the process and apply the experience across our business. In today's climate of rapidly increasing housing costs, the challenge is to ensure that zero carbon is genuinely affordable not just available to those that can afford it”.

Ends

Notes to Editors:

Design submissions for the Home for the Future were welcomed from Architectural practices, homebuilders and developers around a specific design brief developed by the National Centre for Excellence in Housing, RIBA, BRE and NHBC. Details of the nine short listed entries and the design brief can be downloaded from <http://www.britishhomesawards.com>

The National Centre for Excellence in Housing was established by NHBC in partnership with the BRE to look at policy issues facing new-build and existing housing stock. Bringing together stakeholders it focuses on providing a framework for policy solutions in the short, medium and long term.

NHBC is an independent authority and leading expert on new home construction in the UK. It was established more than 70 years ago as a non-profit distributing company. As the leading warranty and insurance provider for new homes in the UK NHBC's primary purpose is to help raise standards in the new house-building industry and provide consumer protection for new house buyers. NHBC's ten-year 'Buildmark' warranty covers more than 80 % of homes built in the UK and has protected more than 6 million homes to date.

BRE is one of the companies owned by The BRE Trust and it is commissioned to undertake projects by both public and private organisations. The BRE Trust is a charity for research and education in the built environment. Its chief goal is to ensure earnings from the companies it owns deliver against its charitable education and research mission.

The Government's 2016 Taskforce draws together experts from a range of specialities under the leadership of Communities and Local Government to combat climate change. The Home Builders Federation co-chairs the Taskforce's work on housing.

Contact

Mairead Devlin at Hardhat Communications
mdevlin@hardhatcommunications.co.uk

Phone 07789918839 or 08700492300

Anna Coverdale at Coverdale Davis for Gaunt Francis Architects
anna@coverdaledavis.com

Phone: 0207 2879770 or 07967525780

Satvinder Sahota at NHBC Corporate Communications
ssahota@nhbc.co.uk

Phone: 01494-735785