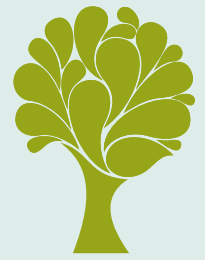




environment



Greenhouse: Luke Bell is bowled over by a pioneering low-carbon development in Leeds!



Stylish, contemporary homes and work spaces that don't cost the earth allow Leeds residents to embrace an environmentally responsible lifestyle.

the concept

A collection of stylish homes and offices powered by sustainable energy and built using pioneering eco-technology, Greenhouse is the part-refurbishment and part-rebuild of a redundant art-deco hostel in south Leeds. Sustainable development experts Citu were given the task of designing and managing this award-winning project, which comprises 172 one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments as well as high-specification work spaces. At the UK Green Building Council's recent Sustainability Awards, Citu were crowned winners of the 'Best Refurbishment Project' award for their work on Greenhouse, which officially opened in October 2010. The win brought Citu's gongs total up to twelve!

the development

The design and development of Greenhouse took into consideration the existing architecture, the impact on the local economy and the way in which it could be used to enhance the lifestyles of existing residents. The whole project took around 3 years, and the result is quite spectacular. Design has not been compromised for functionality and Greenhouse offers Leeds residents the very real, very accessible opportunity to live the green lifestyle in a contemporary, urban environment.

eco-innovation

The project is extremely innovative, utilising intelligent and pioneering technologies. An 80m deep borehole is used to tap into underground water to both cool and heat the building from season to season. Designer wind turbines sit on the rooftops and generate energy for the shared facilities like communal lighting and lifts. Rain water is collected and filtered, then used for toilet flushing and in washing machines. Solar panels heat the water across the whole development. Energy is cleverly recycled and shared through the network of homes and offices, transferring heat from one area to another as it's needed. For example, excess energy from the offices in the day is stored to heat water

for residents returning home that evening. And the same system is used for both heating and cooling through a network of pipes - not a radiator in sight! It is estimated that Greenhouse residents will save around £600 per person annually on energy bills. Also, three Olympic swimming pools of water will be saved each year across the whole development. The low environmental impact is impressive too: the overall carbon emissions of Greenhouse are estimated at 65% less than the current government target and around 1 tonne of CO2 will be saved per year within each Greenhouse home. Each room has its own personalised energy tracking system, accessible via the TV, allowing residents to easily monitor their energy and water consumption.

quality

The quality of living has not been compromised and works in harmony with the sustainable values of the project. 100% British wool carpets, recycled underlay and top quality insulation ensure the apartments are cosy and warm throughout the winter months and cool in the summer. Flooring and work surfaces are made from solid bamboo. The showers and wet rooms have rainhead showers and contemporary glass screens. Double-glazing throughout keeps the heat in and noise out.

Greenhouse is a truly revolutionary project that has been thoughtfully designed and implemented to be stylish, efficient and eco-friendly. Let's hope this is a vision of the future for urban living. If you'd like to find out more about the Greenhouse project, visit www.greenhouseleeds.co.uk. And if you're lucky enough to live in Leeds, go green now and start packing for a house move.

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