

10 inspirational timber buildings

New ways with wood are resulting in strong, dependable homes that look good inside and out

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Building with wood is part of our heritage. Today's timber buildings encompass new techniques that are taking over from traditional timber-framed structures that hark back to Anglo Saxon times. A timber frame completed with panels makes for an efficient build method, but now the panels can perform a structural role, and highly insulated homes can be coaxied to Passivhaus standards. On the exterior, new-builds are being given a modern touch with timber cladding and shingles to form a weatherproof barrier. Internally, roof beams and rafters left exposed become a feature, and plywood-lined walls complete back-to-nature projects in style.



5 ELEGANT DESIGN

John and Liz Adams used the grounds of their existing home in Norton, Suffolk, to build a contemporary, sustainable four-bedroom home with 200sqm of living space and a detached double garage for £520,000. The new-build, set on a north/south axis to maximise solar gain, has two wings, with mono-pitched roofs arranged perpendicular to each other to create an interesting roofline. They chose Plaiice (01394 610 844; plaicemaking.net) to design their home and the team worked closely with timber-frame specialist Svenskhomes (01473 276 921; svenskhomes.co.uk). After exploring construction methods, off-site pre-manufactured panels were specified as they offered the best balance for air tightness, construction time, specification and cost. The timber-framed panels arrived pre-insulated, with airtightness and breather membranes fitted, and windows and doors installed and sealed. The house has achieved an A-rated energy performance certificate.