



Energy efficiency
Not only is timber a very sustainable and ecological material, it allows to construct very energy efficient homes. It needs 100 cm concrete to compare with the energy efficiency of only 6.5 cm of spruce wood!

A bespoke Stommel house is built primarily of polar spruce heartwood from FSC certified forests in Northern Finland, about 50 to 60 tons of this wood is used in a medium size house.

With recycled glass and recycled newspaper for insulation, the latest energy rating of a Stommel house built in Surrey showed the best ever energy rating the London based energy assessors ever calculated.

But there is of course more to a house than rationality

The contemporary designs of modern timber houses demonstrate the dreams and visions of home owners, the creativity of architects and the capability of premium manufacturers such as Stommel Haus.

Modern timber houses have high ceilings, lots of glass, open plan living areas and are fitted with the latest heating and home automation technology. The combination of traditional craftsmanship, the vast experience in timber construction and contemporary fabrication methods allow premium manufacturers such as Stommel Haus to provide their clients with beautiful and comfortable homes where they can enjoy a comfortable living space at low energy cost.



SUSTAINABILITY MADE BEAUTIFUL

by Barbara Fischer-Clark, Stommel Haus UK

What is Sustainability?

A lot of people these days speak about Sustainability and to have sustainable development is the target of almost every planning policy throughout the UK these days. But what does Sustainability mean exactly? Sustainable architecture is defined as "architecture that seeks to minimize the negative environmental impact of buildings by efficiency and moderation in the use of materials, energy, and development space".

There could be no better way to fulfil this requirement than by building with sustainable materials such as timber responsibly sourced in certified forests, by using recycled materials such as paper and glass and by applying these materials in such a way to create energy efficient building with longevity.

Sustainable Building Materials

Wood is probably the most ecological and sustainable and a truly renewable building material. Its sustainability is unsurpassed: Timber is grown quicker than it is used by most of the main timber supplying countries which have long-standing policies to re-grow more timber than is felled. Since the 1992 environment symposium in Rio de Janeiro, international standards for forestry and timber trading such as PEFC and FSC have been introduced and are adhered to by suppliers delivering to the premium timber house manufacturers.

Premium manufacturers of timber houses use constructive wood protection and apply timber devoid of any chemical treatment adhering to the extensive standards and guidelines for non-toxic wood protection and timber construction.

Timber has unique properties: It is diffusible and hygroscopic; it filters the air and thus provides a fresh and healthy atmosphere in a building. It has antibacterial and humidity regulating properties which have positive effects on the atmospheric conditions of a room. Timber smells good, looks good and feels good and thus has a positive effect on our wellbeing. Timber positively affects all human senses.

