

Britain's Best Selling Self-Build Magazine

HOMEBUILDING & RENOVATING

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SELF-BUILD COST SURVEY

The Complete Guide to
Working Out How Much
Your Project Will Cost

EXTENDING A '90s HOME

RENEWABLES: HOW TO CUT YOUR HEATING BILLS TO THE MAX

Cover Story: OAK FRAME HEAVEN

20 Amazing Traditional Style Self-builds

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- Built-in Ovens
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- Natural Materials



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EDITOR'S LETTER



JASON ORME

Jason is the Editor of *Homebuilding & Renovating* magazine and lives in his self-built home in Worcestershire

Like it or not, the overwhelming majority of people installing renewables such as heat pumps and solar panels in their homes are doing so for one reason — and it certainly isn't a desire to reduce CO₂ emissions. The introduction of the two schemes that pay homeowners to create their own energy — Feed-in Tariffs (FiTs) and the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) — has provided the tipping point it always intended, resulting in thousands of

these kits on homes all over the country.

The problem, as ever, is lack of knowledge. Just how effective are these solutions, and what are you likely to get back? We asked our expert, Tim Pullen (who spends his days advising people on this very thing) to analyse each of the green technologies with a view to how successful they are as — and I am no fan of this word in this context — investments. His findings are on page 98. He also makes recommendations on how informed homeowners should go about committing to renewables.

As you know, the Government is keen to hear the views of would-be self-builders on several issues. They have asked *Homebuilding & Renovating's* readers to take part and I urge you to take this opportunity to have your say — and help shape the future for self-build. Fill out the survey at homebuilding.co.uk/govtsurvey.

Jason

Rustic Charm

I went to visit this oak frame self-built home in mid Wales a few months back. In addition to well-executed exteriors (love the flared roof), the interiors (see this month's cover) are warm without being twee, and light and open without feeling empty. It's a fine example of what self-builders can achieve. See page 24 for more.

Jason blogs on creating homes and a little bit more besides at homebuilding.co.uk/blogs. Follow him on Twitter at [JasonPORMe](https://twitter.com/JasonPORMe)



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THE WONDER OF WOOD

For their first self-build Gordon and Annie Campbell placed their faith in oak frame and timber cladding — the result is utterly charming ▶

Details Oak frame self-build, Powys, Oct 2007 – Feb 2009

Project Cost £430,000 (£1,829/m²)

Designer Welsh Oak Frame

Words: Jason Orme Photography: Nikhilesh Haval

**On the site of an old barn**

The new oak frame home is mainly clad in timber but two elevations use stone, reclaimed from the barn that used to sit on the site