

PRESS
release

Isover international Architectural Design Competition comes to UK

19 September

Saint-Gobain Isover, the leading developer of sustainable insulation solutions to protect both the built and the natural environment, has announced the launch of its 2012 Student Architectural Design Competition, which will include a national and international stage.

The 2012 brief will require students to create a sustainable community living plan for around 12 to 15 families, located in Nottingham's Trent Basin at the border between the city and the industrial zone. The development must be designed in accordance with Isover Multi-Comfort House principles, encompassing Passiv Haus components to create a sustainable neighbourhood.

The competition is open to students of all architectural universities offering RIBA accredited degree or masters courses. Students can participate in teams of up to three members and will be asked to produce a design that takes into account social and economic aspects, as well as constructional considerations.

The architecture of the development, which can also include urban space solutions for the immediate vicinity, must be sympathetic to the local surroundings and should also help breathe life into the existing urban area. Shortlisted UK finalists will be invited to showcase their work at Ecobuild 2012, with the winners going on to compete in the eighth international final, which takes place in Bratislava next May.

Your environment. It's the nature of our business.

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Helen Tunnicliffe, marketing manager for Saint-Gobain Isover, comments: “We are extremely pleased that this year’s competition brief will focus on Nottingham as this will enable us to demonstrate how the Multi-Comfort and Passivhaus concepts offer a viable solution for UK developers.

“As I’m sure last year’s finalists will testify, taking part in the competition is a valuable and enjoyable experience. I would urge any RIBA accredited universities and their architectural students to enter, as it will provide them with an ideal opportunity to showcase their talent to the wider construction industry.”

The Isover Multi-Comfort House concept illustrates how energy use can be minimised and demonstrates how energy efficient living can be achieved both comfortably and economically. It builds on the Passiv Haus principles, incorporating a focus on a number of key elements including thermal and acoustic comfort, high indoor air quality, exceptional environment and energy efficiency benefits and air tightness.

For more information on the 2012 competition and the Saint-Gobain Multi-Comfort concept, please visit www.multicomforthouse.co.uk, follow us on twitter @IsoverUK or ‘like’ us on Facebook.

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(377 words)

Note to Editors

Saint-Gobain Isover

Your environment. It’s the nature of our business. Isover, part of Saint-Gobain Group, develops sustainable insulation solutions to protect both the built environment and the natural environment and is the only glass mineral wool manufacturer to achieve the maximum possible recycled content, 86 per cent, using recycled glass that would otherwise go to landfill.

Isover products provide the highest performing energy efficiency and acoustic insulation solutions that are safe to use and that help protect the environment. Over a typical 50 year lifespan of a building Isover insulation will save 300 tonnes of CO₂, which equates to over 375 times more CO₂ than is needed for its manufacture.

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Isover insulation warms and protects one in three European and one in five American homes. The company is committed to ongoing R&D to deliver technical excellence and global leadership in glass mineral wool insulation.

Saint-Gobain

Saint-Gobain, the world leader in the habitat and construction markets, designs, manufactures and distributes building materials, providing innovative solutions to the challenges of growth, energy efficiency and environmental protection. With 2010 sales of €40.1 billion, Saint-Gobain operates in 64 countries and has nearly 190,000 employees.

In the UK and Ireland, some of the best known and respected companies in the construction industry are part of Saint-Gobain. Alongside Isover, these include British Gypsum, Solaglas, Weber, Saint-Gobain Glass, Saint-Gobain PAM, Pasquill, Ecophon and Saint-Gobain Solar. Together they offer a range of high performance energy-saving products and solutions to help create a more sustainable built environment. For more information on Saint-Gobain visit www.saint-gobain.co.uk.



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For further editorial information contact Tonic Public Relations:

- Catherine Milner: Tel:01527 834648 Mob: 07870 385514
Email: catherine@tonicpublicrelations.co.uk
- Tessa Biddulph: Tel:01527 834675
Email: tessa@tonicpublicrelations.co.uk