

PRESS
release

Isover international Architectural Design Competition open for entries

7 November 2011

Saint-Gobain Isover's annual Student Architectural Design Competition is now open for entries. The leading developer of sustainable insulation solutions to protect both the built and the natural environment officially launched the 2012 contest at this year's UK Passivhaus Conference, which took place at the Barbican in London.

Entry is extended to students of all architectural universities offering RIBA accredited degree or masters courses. This year's competition has already secured participation from leading industry figures including Bill Butcher from the Green Building Store and Nick Grant from the Passivhaus Trust. Both were judges in the 2011 contest and have pledged their continued support for 2012.

Speaking at the UK Passivhaus Conference Tom Cox, innovation manager for Saint-Gobain Isover, said: "We're a huge advocate of Passivhaus and Isover and our parent company Saint-Gobain is so confident in its capabilities that we've developed our own take on it: the Saint-Gobain Multi-Comfort concept.

"The Multi-Comfort concept builds on Passivhaus standards and incorporates a focus on a number of key elements including thermal and acoustic comfort, high indoor air quality, exceptional environmental and energy efficiency benefits and air tightness.

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

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Isover

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“We recognise that educating the next generation of architects on the benefits of a Passivhaus or Multi-Comfort approach to construction will play a vital role in achieving a low carbon future, and this was a key reason behind Isover’s decision to launch its annual Student Architectural Design Competition back in 2005.”

Now in its eighth year, the contest has gone from strength to strength since its launch. This year, entrants will be tasked with designing 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 Saint-Gobain Multi-Comfort principles, encompassing Passivhaus performance to create a sustainable neighbourhood. 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.

For more information on the Saint-Gobain Multi-Comfort concept and details on how to enter the competition please visit www.multicomforthouse.co.uk. For the latest updates on the 2012 contest follow @IsoverUK on twitter or ‘like’ Isover UK on Facebook.

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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.



- ★ Less Materials
- ★ Less Energy
- ★ Less Emissions

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.

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