

Build It Live

SELF BUILD | HOME DESIGN | RENOVATION | EXTENSION

PLAN YOUR VISIT

21-22 February 2026
Kent Event Centre
Maidstone

Make your dream home happen

Meet over 100 suppliers at **Build It Live** this February and find out everything you need to know about home extensions, renovations, barn conversions or building a new home.

THE ESSENTIAL
EVENT FOR CREATING
AN INDIVIDUAL
HOME



BROUGHT TO YOU BY BUILD IT

www.builditlive.co.uk



**PLAN
YOUR VISIT
& make your
dream home
happen**

Whether planning an extension, renovation or building from scratch, you won't regret your visit to Build It Live. This handy guide is designed to help you plan your day (or whole weekend!) as effectively as possible, to ensure you get all the answers you need to make your dream home happen.

Don't forget to pick up a Show Guide when you get to the event, which will give you the full list of suppliers you can meet at the show. From architects to timber frames, kitchens & bathrooms to beautiful glazing, finance, home tech and everything in between - meet over 100 of the UK's most innovative suppliers offering 1000s of products and services.

- **FIND INSPIRATION FOR YOUR DREAM HOME PROJECT**
- **FREE ONE-TO-ONE PROFESSIONAL EXPERT ADVICE**
- **1000S OF INNOVATIVE & TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS**
- **OVER 100 EXHIBITORS**
- **THE ONE-STOP SHOP FOR SELF BUILDERS**
- **TOP TIPS ON EXTENSIONS AND RENOVATIONS**
- **VISIT THE LAND ZONE FOR ADVICE ON FINDING THE PERFECT PLOT - PLUS, SEARCH AVAILABLE PLOTS FOR SALE**

Build It
Live

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See overleaf for timetables
of what's on over the weekend



Dream It
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Ask Our Experts

The Ask Our Experts lounge is many visitors' first destination at the show. Discuss your project with some of Build It magazine's regular contributors, who are all specialists in their field. Our Experts will provide you with practical, impartial advice that could be worth £1000s. Come prepared with your questions, floor plans or other documents, and take advantage of this fantastic opportunity. **N.B. Slots can only be booked on the day, not in advance.**

CHRIS BATESMITH
SELF BUILD &
RENOVATION



Chris has dedicated the last 16 years to championing self build in the UK. He is a trained site carpenter, project managed construction of Build It's Self Build Education House, and is currently undertaking his latest home renovation.

JULIA RIDDLE
PLANNING



Julia is a planning consultant with over 15 years of experience in a variety of planning work, including advising on and achieving planning permission for residential development on a range of scales. She has been involved in writing guidance on custom and self-build to inform the national planning approach and is a member of the Right to Build Task Force, aiming to grow opportunities for bespoke housebuilding.

OPINDER LIDDAR
ARCHITECTURE
& DESIGN



Opinder is a Build It Award-winning architect and a director at Lapd Architects. He specialises in self-build homes and renovation projects. Opinder is a regular at the Build It Live exhibitions and designed Build It's Self Build Education House, which you can tour virtually at self-build.co.uk/ourhouse.

TOM MCSHERRY
FINANCE



Tom has worked in the financial services industry for over 25 years - the last 10 of these specialising in self-build mortgages and finance at BuildStore, providing expert advice to hundreds of customers embarking on the bespoke home journey. Tom has completed two major home building projects himself and is widely regarded as a self-build finance expert.

ALAN TIERNEY
RENOVATION & PERIOD
PROPERTIES



Alan is a period property and building conservation specialist. Until recently he ran an historic buildings consultancy offering hands-on advice to heritage homeowners, but is now focussed on his current project: renovating a grade II* listed cottage.

MARTIN GAINÉ
PLANNING



Martin is a chartered town planner, founder of planning consultancy, Just Planning, and author of How To Get Planning Permission - An Insider's Secrets. He champions homeowners in the planning system, helping them to solve sticky planning problems, get planning permission, win appeals and deal with enforcement issues.

MARK STEVENSON
PROJECT MANAGEMENT



Mark has worked as a construction professional for over 35 years and is a serial self builder with a knowledge of self build finance. Former Chair of NaCSBA, he runs project management consultancy Elsworth Projects and advocates for the interests of self builders and contributes to the success of the emerging custom build industry.

JULIAN OWEN
ARCHITECTURE
& DESIGN



Julian is Build It's design doctor. A self-build architect with his own practice, he is also the founder of the Association of Self Build Architects. He has written a number of books on the subjects of self-build, alteration and extensions, loft conversions and timber frame building.

JANE GEE
PROJECT MANAGEMENT
& COSTS



Jane has been working in the construction industry for over 40 years, in both site-based and office roles. Her experience covers a wide range of areas, including cost estimating, procurement, surveying, budgeting and more. Jane heads up the quantity surveying team at construction project consultancy, CLPM. She is currently managing her own project - the refurbishment of an old stone property.



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**Book your slot early to
avoid missing out!**

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Ask Our Experts

The Clinics

DAVID HILTON
HEATING, RENEWABLES
& VENTILATION



David is a renewables and ventilation installer, with over 35 years' experience. He is a member of the Gas Safe Register, has a Masters degree in Sustainable Architecture, and is an authority in sustainable building and energy efficiency, with extensive knowledge in building fabrics, heat recovery ventilation, renewables and conventional heating systems. See David in the Heating Advice Clinic.

MARTYN PHILLIP
SELF BUILD, EXTENSIONS
& RENOVATIONS



With over two decades of experience, Martyn specialise in the self build, extension and home renovation market, guiding clients from concept to completion. He offers expert advice on planning, design, and construction, ensuring compliance with regulations while delivering bespoke, high-quality outcomes tailored to individual needs. His hands-on approach helps homeowners confidently navigate every stage of their project. Meet Martyn at the Extensions Clinic.

STEVE SEVIER
BASEMENTS & STRUCTURAL
WATERPROOFING



Steve is a structural waterproofing engineer, and was the hands-on installer for the waterproofing solutions at Build It's Self Build Education House. He has over 35 years' experience delivering high-quality basement living spaces. Meet Steve at the Basement Advice Clinic.

JOHN SPEARMAN
BASEMENTS & STRUCTURAL
WATERPROOFING



John is a specialist in new build and retrofit basement projects, and a certificated surveyor in structural waterproofing. He is director of Surrey Basements, which completed the waterproofing design and installation for the basement at Build It's Self Build Education House. Head to the Basement Advice Clinic to chat with John.

SIMON WILD
ESTIMATING & COSTS



Simon is Senior Estimator for the Build It Estimating Service, having had his own home extension building business in the late 90s. For over 15 years the HBXL Estimating Service has benefitted from Simon's extensive building knowledge, which more recently is also being shared with users of the Build It Estimating Service. Like all the estimators in the team, he certainly knows his way around a plan and will very quickly point out any anomalies. Pick his brain at the Build Cost Clinic.

KRIS BAXTER
EXTENSIONS



Chartered Architectural Technologist, a Chartered Building Engineer and Creative Director at Studio 11 Architecture. He specialises in technically challenging self-build projects, including rural homes, Paragraph 84 & 139 homes, zero-carbon housing and complex residential transformations, delivering innovative, buildable design solutions. Meet Kris at the extensions clinic.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY BUILD IT

**Dream It
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Seminar THEATRE

9

**FREE
SEMINARS**
EACH DAY

Our series of free seminars are developed by Build It's editorial team and our panel of experts to ensure all common questions are covered and to give you the knowledge to take control of your project. Please ensure you turn up promptly to get a seat. The programme is repeated each day.

10.20

A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO SELF BUILD

Discover the pros and cons of building your own home. Build It's self build expert explains the process - from finding land, to setting a budget, designing your dream home and finding a builder.

11.00

DESIGNING YOUR DREAM HOME

Getting your design right is the essential element in creating your dream property. One of Build It's architecture experts will discuss how to plan and realise a home that works for you and your family, whether you're looking to renovate or build from scratch.

11.40

ECO HEATING DEBATE

In this lively session, sector specialists will argue the pros and cons of various home energy solutions, from heat pumps to gas boilers.

12.20

RENOVATING A HOME WITH CHARACTER: UPDATING AN OLD HOUSE FOR MODERN ECO LIVING

Build It's period property and eco specialist gives advice on the potential minefield of renovating or converting existing homes, including older buildings. They will talk through everything you need to know about converting an old house into a modern low-energy home.

13.00

HOW TO ADD MORE SPACE & VALUE

Discover the best value-adding projects for existing homes, from extensions through to loft conversions, and assess

which option best suits your family's needs.

13.40

PANEL SESSION: THE PERFECT WAY TO BUILD YOUR HOME

- PLUS THE GREAT BUILD SYSTEMS DEBATE!

Uncover the pros and cons of the most popular construction systems in the UK: timber frame, brick & block, SIPs and ICF. A build systems expert discusses which structural option will suit your design, plot, budget and energy efficiency requirements.

14.20

THE DIFFERENT ROUTES TO MANAGING YOUR PROJECT

What are the routes you could take to build, renovate or extend your own home? Our project management expert explains what's involved in running the project yourself - from purchasing materials and hiring tradesmen to finishing on time and on budget! He'll also guide you through the other routes available and how costs vary.

15.00

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE HOME

Our eco specialist talks through everything you need to know about creating a low-energy home that's cost-effective to run - including why it's important to get the house's 'fabric' right before you invest in renewable technologies, and what you need to consider during the construction stage.

15.40

HOW TO FIND LAND AND GET PLANNING PERMISSION

Your dream home starts with obtaining planning permission. Our plot and planning gurus guide you through the essential elements from submitting an application and gaining consent to appeals and tips on dealing with planners. They also give invaluable advice on finding a plot of land.

FOR FULL PROGRAMME & TIMES VISIT WWW.BUILDITLIVE.CO.UK

Build It Live

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**Dream It
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Workshop PROGRAMME

21

FREE
WORKSHOPS

Whatever your question, you're bound to find the answer at one of our free workshops. Presented by leading suppliers and specialists, each session focuses on specific problems and choices that self builders and renovators face every day. Arrive early to get a seat!

SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY

*THE ORGANISER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE PROGRAMME AT SHORT NOTICE

- 10.30 Is a Heat Pump the Right Choice for My Home?** - Aura Energy
- 11.00 Home Renovation: Set Yourself Up for Project Success** - Collier Stevens
- 11.30 High-Performance Triple Glazed Windows - Why They Make Sense** - Internorm
- 12.00 Funding Your Self Build & Renovation Plans** - Mayflower Mortgages
- 12.30 Real-life project:** Bhavesh & Bijal Ravalia's Renovation & Extension of a 1930s Semi
- 13.30 Sustainable Building: Creating a Healthy & Low-Energy Home** - PYC Group
- 14.00 Ventilate Right: Benefits of a MVHR for Modern Homes** - Solarcrest
- 14.30 Rainwater Harvesting: Reduce Water Usage & Meet Future Home Building Standards**
- Rainwater Harvesting
- 15.00 Underfloor Heating: How to Specify the Right Solution for Your Project** - Roth UK
- 15.30 Passivhaus: Design & Build Your Timber Frame Eco Home** - MBC Timber Frame
- 16.00 Basement Benefits: The Best Ways to Add High-Quality Living Space** - Basement Advice Clinic

SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY

- 10.30 Finding Land: What Makes a Good Plot?** - PlotBrowser
- 11.00 Natural & Sustainable Insulation Options for Your Project** - Unity Lime
- 11.30 Protect Your Project: Why Insurance & Warranties are Must-Haves** - Protek
- 12.00 Building Better with Timber Frame** - Fleming Homes
- 12.30 Real-life project:** Rupert Scott & Leo Wood's Conversion Project
- 13.30 Windows & Energy Performance: Why Good Design, Detail & Installation are Key** - 21 Degrees
- 14.00 Solar Panels & Battery Storage: Getting the Best from Your System** - OHM Energy
- 14.30 Extending Your Home: Design Ideas & Practical Steps to Success** - Robert Shreeves Associates
- 15.00 VAT Reclaims: How to Save £10,000s on Your Self Build or Conversion Project**
- Andrew Jones The VAT Man
- 15.30 How to Find a Quality Builder** - Build It

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BUILD IT'S SELF BUILD TRAINING Taster Sessions



At the exhibition, you can enjoy some taster sessions of Build It's Self Build Virtual Training courses. The interactive series of online courses are presented by Build It's expert contributors. Take a seat to get an understanding of how the training courses can help you with your project. Build It Live features short, 20-minute taster sessions of the courses. **You can also pick up a special discount for the courses!**

SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY

- 11.00** Project Management Routes & Steps to Success
- 12.00** Got Planning? How To Move Your Project Forward
- 14.00** What You Can Do Without Planning
- 15.00** Is a Heat Pump Right For You?

SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY

- 11.00** Introduction to Self Build
- 12.00** Got Planning? How To Move Your Project Forward
- 14.00** What You Can Do Without Planning
- 15.00** Is a Heat Pump Right For You?

FOR MORE INFORMATION AFTER THE SHOW GO TO WWW.BUILDIT.CO.UK/TRAINING

Visit our Handy Drop-in Clinics FOR FREE INFORMATION AND ADVICE

HEATING ADVICE CLINIC

If you're looking for a heating system for your project, then you know there are a myriad of options. Visit our Heating Advice Clinic to help you decide on the best heat source for your home. From gas boilers (mains & LPG), oil boilers, ground source, air source to solar, come and discover the pros and cons, and talk to our heating expert.



BASEMENT ADVICE CLINIC

Building a basement is a cost effective way to create high-quality space ... and to beat the planners! In Europe they are common place, but here we've overlooked this opportunity for too long. Visit the Basement Advice Clinic to discover how it could give you the extra space you need.



EXTENSION ADVICE CLINIC

If you love your current home, but want to add more space, then an extension might be the right route for you. When executed properly, extensions can add thousands to your property's worth. However, sometimes obtaining planning permission for your extension can be tricky. Visit the Extensions Clinic at the show for professional one to one advice!



BUILD COST CLINIC

Getting a grip with what your self-build or renovation project is likely to cost will help you focus your design choices, check builders' quotes and may even save you money! Visit the Build Cost Clinic for free advice!



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Real Life Projects'

OWN STORIES LIVE

Visit the Workshop Theatre at the times below to hear successful project stories from our readers directly. Hear these true stories and gain practical knowledge and tips to help you with your project.

SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY

12:30 MEET BHAVESH & BIJAL RAVALIA

Bhavesh and Bijal Ravalia purchased a 1930s semi-detached doer-upper with a disjointed layout in the sought-after area of Wanstead. "It was an absolute tip and needed gutting - rewiring, new plumbing, reconfiguring, you name it," says Bhavesh. The plan was a wraparound extension to maximise the corner plot, plus a first-floor side addition, loft conversion and large zoned rear extension.

After their plans were rejected, they scaled back the design, reducing the size of the first-floor extension and loft conversion. Contractor Alan Berry kicked off the project with the brick and block wraparound extension. The kitchen runs along the right-hand side, with a 3m kitchen island to match the size of the dining area, while the family's chill-out zone sits opposite.



SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY

12:30 MEET LEO WOOD & RUPERT SCOTT

When Rupert Scott and Leo Wood took on the development of an old garage site in southeast London, the plan was to tuck a modern, L-shaped home into the left-hand corner of the plot. To help mitigate any planning issues, they stuck to the original footprint of the garages currently on the site. The couple hired a contractor, Rupert took on management duties and Leo assisted with admin and interior design.

Covid delays gave Rupert and Leo the chance to buy the 25m² site next door. We decided to turn it into an annex, connected to the house but with its own exterior entrance," says Leo. After seven years and three build phases, the contemporary new home was finished. Defined by extensive glazing, accents of iroko and London stock bricks, the house is modern and yet perfectly in-keeping with its setting.



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Hear the story behind
these incredible projects, live
at the Workshop Theatre

Dream It
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So much UNDER ONE ROOF!

Meet the UK's most innovative suppliers
offering 1000s of products & services...

From new and cutting-edge to classic and traditional, there's plenty at the show to suit your style (and your budget!)

- **Architects & Designers**
- **Bathrooms**
- **Bricks & Masonry**
- **Conservatories & Outbuildings**
- **Design & Build Home Packages**
- **Doors & Windows**
- **Eco Products**
- **Exterior Finishes**
- **Finding Land**
- **Folding Sliding Doors**
- **Heating & Ventilation**
- **Home Security**
- **Home Technology**
- **Insulated Concrete Formwork (ICF)**
- **Insulation & Sound Proofing**
- **Insurances & Warranties**
- **Interior Fixtures & Finishes**
- **Kitchens**
- **Lighting & Electrics**
- **Lofts & Basements**
- **Project Managers**
- **Professionals**
- **Rainwater Harvesting**
- **Renewable Energy**
- **Roof Structures & Coverings**
- **Self Build Mortgage Specialists**
- **Staircases**
- **Structural Insulated Panel (SIPs) Manufacturers**
- **Timber Frame Specialists**
- **Underfloor Heating**



Don't miss...



- **HEATING ADVICE CLINIC**
By popular demand, visit our Heating Advice Clinic to help you decide on the best heat source for your home.
- **BUILD COST CLINIC**
Discuss your project with one of our Estimators to better understand how much it will cost to build the home of your dreams.
- **STRIKING GLAZING OPTIONS**
Meet a host of glazing manufacturers demonstrating a huge range of bifold & sliding doors, windows & rooflights. From kitchen extension to a whole new build, create a wonderfully bright and airy home!
- **EXTENSIONS CLINIC**
If you love your current home, but want to add more space, then an extension might be the right route for you. When executed properly, extensions can add thousands to your property's worth. However, sometimes obtaining planning permission for your extension can be tricky. Visit the Extensions Clinic at the show for professional one to one advice!
- **LAND ZONE**
Make sure you visit the Land Zone, brought to you by PlotBrowser - the online portal dedicated to real building plots. Here, you'll be able to discover the various routes to finding the right plot. Gain valuable tips for finding land and browse real, available plots currently on the market.
- **BUILD SYSTEM OPTIONS**
Meet the widest range of exhibitors specialising in each of the key construction methods for self build, helping you assess the right route for you.
- **BASEMENT ADVICE CLINIC**
Building a basement is a cost effective way to create high quality space ... and to beat the planners! In Europe they are common, but the UK has overlooked this opportunity for too long. Visit the Basement Advice Clinic to discover how it could give you the extra space you need.
- **THE SUSTAINABLE BUILDING PRODUCTS PAVILION**
Whether building from scratch or renovating an old house, if you want a truly sustainable, healthy home, then every aspect of your project needs to be considered in detail - from low-energy design strategies through to the products and finishes that go into both the structural fabric and the internal fit-out.
- **DESIGN KNOW-HOW**
Meet a wide range of Architects and Designers offering free advice & inspiration to guide you to the home of your dreams.
- **SELF-BUILDERS' OWN STORIES LIVE**
Gain inspiration and confidence from Build It readers who have realised their self-build dreams. Hear their stories in the live theatre on the show floor.

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LAND ZONE

FIND
YOUR
PLOT

@ Build It Live

Make sure you visit the Land Zone, brought to you by PlotBrowser – the online portal dedicated to real building plots. Here, you'll be able to discover the various routes to finding the right plot for your build. The Land Zone will offer valuable tips for finding land, and you'll be able to browse live listings currently for sale, in order to secure your very own piece of land.

SO MUCH TO THINK ABOUT!

There is a lot to consider when hunting for a plot of land to build your dream home on.

Does the plot have planning permission granted? If so, what type of planning permission - detailed with specifics in place or more flexible outline permission?

When does the planning permission expire, or has it already done so?

And so the list of considerations goes on.



LAND-FOCUSED SEMINARS AND ADVICE

Don't miss the Seminar Stage at 15.40 each day for "How to find land and getting planning permission" and the Workshop Theatre at 10.30am on Sunday for "Finding Land - What makes a good plot?"

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21-22 February 2026
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Learn how to create a beautiful individual home with a visit to **Build It Live**

OPENING TIMES

Saturday 21st Feb. 2026 | 10am to 5pm

Sunday 22nd Feb. 2026 | 10am to 4.30pm

LOCATION

The Kent Event Centre is located next to Kent Showground and is easy to reach by car. It is located close to the M2, M20 and M25 motorways. Unlimited parking is available next to the suite of indoor exhibition halls. **Kent Showground, Detling, Maidstone ME14 3JF.**

BOOK IN ADVANCE

Don't forget to print your tickets or bring on your phone/device



FAQS

- Unlimited free parking is available next to the indoor exhibition halls
- There is a wide range of drinks plus hot & cold meals at the catering outlets within the halls
- Children go free and do not need a ticket
- You may use your tickets for either day
- No dogs allowed in the building except guide and service dogs

**SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFERS
PLUS A WIDE VARIETY OF SPECIALIST BOOKS AND GUIDES.**

Visit the Build It bookshop at the show

