

# sustainable building materials

health • carbon • life

- 9.00 Registration and refreshments
- 9.30 **Stuart Black**, Chairman, Ecos Trust  
Chairman's introduction.
- 9.45 **Neil May**, CEO, Natural Building Technologies  
**Health and buildings.**  
The manufacture, use and disposal of building materials all impact on our health and the environment. Why choose natural and sustainable materials and what are the benefits that they can bring?
- 10.30 **Craig White**, Director, White Design  
**Specifying and using sustainable materials – an architects perspective.**  
Designing buildings to meet the Code for Sustainable Homes provides many challenges. How can specifying and using natural and sustainable building materials help to meet the Code and how does this compare with using conventional materials?
- 11.15 Refreshments
- 11.35 **Dr Jim Allen**, Partner, E and M West  
**Breathability and functionality.**  
Designers and engineers need to look closely at materials to identify their specific attributes for a particular purpose. What attributes can sustainable materials provide to help with important considerations such as load-bearing and movement?
- 12.20 **Niall Crosson**, Technical Engineer, Ecological Building Systems  
**Natural insulation and airtightness.**  
Internal air quality is an important aspect in the design of any building both for the health and comfort of the user and the long-term health of the building. How can natural materials, such as insulation and intelligent membranes help to control damp and keep buildings breathing?
- 1.05 Lunch
- 1.55 Workshop sessions (*see right*).
- 3.30 Refreshments
- 3.50 **Bee Rowan**, Director of education and training, Amazon Nails  
**What are the limits?**  
How far into mainstream construction can natural materials really go? Some buildings have successfully earned their place in the mainstream market using high levels of natural and sustainable building materials. How has this been achieved and what pros and cons were flagged up on the way?
- 4.35 Chairman's closing remarks
- 4.45 Close

## Workshop sessions

Choose two workshop sessions (*on the day*).  
Each session lasts 45 minutes.

Session 1: 1.55–2.40 • Session 2: 2.45–3.30

### Workshop 1

#### The Natural House, BRE Innovation Park – Neil May

The Natural House is a low energy home, a prototype of which has recently been completed at the Building Research Establishment in Watford. The home is built from natural materials, sourced to provide high levels of thermal insulation while maximising the end of use recyclability of the building. The Natural House has been designed to be quick and simple to construct and is highly adaptable in design to accommodate changes in future long-term occupancy.

### Workshop 2

#### ModCell® – Craig White

The ModCell® system is an innovative, offsite-manufactured wall and roof cladding system that can be quickly and efficiently installed to create buildings with a thermal performance up to three times higher than the current building regulations require. The system utilises straw bale and hemp construction to form prefabricated panels that create super-insulated, high-performance, low energy 'passive' buildings to be built using renewable, locally sourced, carbon sequestering materials. ModCell® is designed for use in offices, schools, housing and commercial buildings.

### Workshop 3

#### Building with clay – Bee Rowan

Clay is the ultimate natural building material that has been used successfully in some modern buildings – what are the techniques and training needed to ensure it is used correctly?

### Workshop 4

#### Pro clima range of products – Niall Crosson

Some *intelligent* solutions for achieving airtightness. The pro clima sealing systems protect thermal insulation constructions in roof or wall by means of high-efficiency, *intelligent* membranes which provide active moisture management