



GRAND DESIGNS LIVE CHALLENGES THE NATION TO ENTER NEW 'SELF-BUILD ON A SHOE STRING' COMPETITION IN ASSOCIATION WITH NaSBA

- BUILD A HOME FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR THAT CAN BE CONSTRUCTED FOR LESS THAN £50,000 -

16.07.13

The UK's leading contemporary home show, [Grand Designs Live](#), is pleased to announce the launch of a new and pioneering '[Self-Build on a Shoestring](#)' design ideas competition, organised in conjunction with the National Self Build Association ([NaSBA](#)).

This unique competition is open to anyone and encourages people to design an innovative 'self-build friendly' home that can be constructed for less than £50,000.

The team behind the competition hopes to see entries that deliver a simple two bedroom home for less than this figure, with the overall winning design displayed at **Grand Designs Live 2014**.

Aspiring designers will need to showcase pioneering ideas and new concepts to prove that low cost homes can also be beautiful and sustainable too – with the chosen winners taking a share of the £5,000 prize fund!

The £50,000 build budget may seem tight; but it is possible to construct a home for this. For example in Ireland: a compact three bedroom house (pictured below) - cost around £20,000 in materials and took just 50 days to construct.



Entrants now have until the end of September to submit their designs, with the winners being revealed at the Grand Designs Live exhibition at the **Birmingham NEC show, from the 4 – 6 October**.

The competition was previewed as part of **National Self Build Week 2013** - a campaign organised by the NaSBA and Grand Designs Live, and supported by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The judging panel will include Grand Designs presenter **Kevin McCloud**; **Charlie Luxton**, one of the presenters of the BBC's Culture Show programme; **Ted Stevens**, a former award winning architectural and planning journalist and current chair of the National Self Build Association; **George Ferguson**, Mayor of Bristol and past-President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and **Geoff Stow**, self-home-builder and director of the Association for Environment Conscious Building.

Kevin McCloud said: "Self-Build doesn't just happen on television. Every year about ten thousand of us commission a new home for ourselves or even build it with our bare hands. The National Self-Build Association is dedicated to making that easier, cheaper and more accessible. Which is why we're launching a competition to design a Budget Self-Build. We're looking for designs for simple-to-build kit homes that can be adapted to suit any need and reconfigured and skinned to fit anywhere. This competition will appeal to all those brilliant architects, amateurs, building companies and kit home firms who believe that the future in housing is self-build."

Housing Minister Mark Prisk said: "All too often the perception is that building your own home is a pipe dream, but self-build is not just about Grand Designs: many innovatively-designed, well-built homes have been built by their owners on a very limited budget. The 'Self-Build on a Shoestring' competition will help demonstrate the best ideas out there, which can be built for less than £50,000. I would urge as many people as possible to give this a go, and see for themselves how achievable building your own home can really be."

NaSBA Chair Ted Stevens said: "The potential market for the winning design could be enormous. A recent Ipsos MORI poll suggested there are six million people currently investigating the feasibility of undertaking a self build project, and one million of these are already searching for or trying to acquire a plot of land."

In the 1970's and 1980's the UK devised some extremely innovative, low cost self build homes, and hundreds of very affordable, simple-to-build homes were constructed. More recently there has been huge media interest in a very simple low cost 2/3 bedroom house constructed in Ireland for just £20,000. We believe there is a huge appetite in Britain, especially from young families on modest incomes, to build a truly affordable home for themselves. And we are confident we will get some wonderfully innovative designs - from both amateurs and professionals alike."

Competition Entry Details

The competition is free to enter, and the detailed Brief is available that sets out all the competition rules. Submissions must be received no later than **5pm on Friday, 20 September** and should be sent as follows:

- Hard copies to – Self Build on a Shoestring, c/o National Self Build Association, Normandy House, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 3FB
- PDFs to – shoestring@nasba.org.uk (in the covering e-mail please provide your full contact details including telephone numbers and postal address)

For further information and to view all terms and conditions please visit granddesignslive.com or nasba.org.uk/selfbuilidonashoestring

- Ends -

Notes to Editors:

About Grand Designs Live Birmingham

Grand Designs Live is based on the hugely popular Channel 4 TV show, Grand Designs, which has gained a huge following in the UK over the last 10 years. TV broadcaster and live show host, Kevin McCloud will be at the Birmingham show meeting fans, chairing debates in the Grand Theatre and sharing his Grand Design experiences with visitors.

With over 55,000 consumers expected to visit the event over three days, Grand Designs Live Birmingham will offer visitors a great day out, 100's of innovative ideas for the home, specialist exhibitors and FREE expert advice all under one roof – making it an invaluable and unmissable event for home lovers.

Grand Designs Live Birmingham takes place from 4 – 6 October 2012 at Birmingham's NEC. Save £££'s when you book in advance. Order your tickets online: www.granddesignslive.com or call the booking hotline on 0844 854 1348.

Ticket Information:

| ❖ Tickets | In Advance | On the Door |
|------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| ❖ Adult | £15 | £19 |
| ❖ Child under 15 | Free | Free (require a ticket) |
| ❖ VIP Experience | £39 | n/a |

Show Opening Times

- ❖ Friday 4 October & Saturday 5 October - 10am - 6pm
- ❖ Sunday 6 October - 10am - 5pm

Group Discounts

- ❖ Bring your friends and save even more, with great discounts available for groups of 10 or more. Call 0844 412 4650 for further details on group discounts.

About NaSBA

The National Self Build Association (NaSBA) is a campaigning organisation that aims to make it a lot easier for more people to build a home for themselves. It was set up by network of companies and individuals with the common aim of promoting self build and custom build as a form of housing delivery that can make a significant contribution to home building in the UK.

NaSBA brings together self builders, custom build developers, architects, planners, financial and warranty providers, manufacturers, community groups and local authorities to develop, share and promote best practice in self and custom build.

NaSBA is run by its members and is independent and is operated on a not for profit basis. One of its key outputs is the Self Build Portal website (www.selfbuildportal.org.uk), which provides completely independent guidance to would-be self builders. More information about NaSBA itself is available on www.nasba.org.uk

Other resources

1. To find out more about the early wave of low cost self build homes constructed in the UK in the 1970s and 1980s see the Walter Segal Trust's website - <http://www.segselfbuild.co.uk/home.html>
2. For more information about the low cost Irish self build home go to the Self Build Portal - <http://www.selfbuildportal.org.uk/irish-vernacular>
3. The first ever [National Self Build Week](#) (NSBW) took place from 4-12 May 2013 and consisted of a wide-ranging programme of events to help millions of Britons turn their self build dreams into a reality.

NSBW saw the results of an exclusive Ipsos MORI poll, which revealed that around six million people in Briton are currently planning or researching how to build a home and want to start their new home building process in the next year or so.

The survey also revealed that one million people have already moved from the 'researching' to the 'action' stage, and are currently in the process of acquiring a building plot, obtaining planning permission or expect to start construction in the next 12 months.

For further media information, images or interviews please contact:

Publicasity on 020 7632 2400 or email granddesignslive@publicasity.co.uk

Ted Stevens on 07860 336087 or email chair@nasba.org.uk