

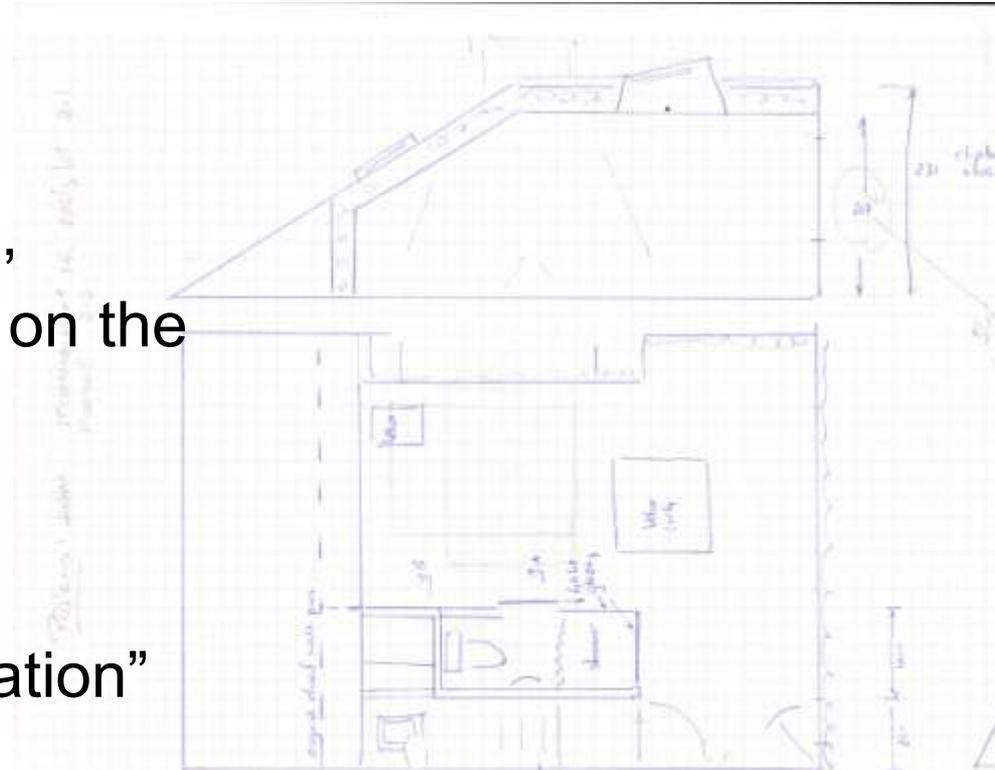
Getting the best from your builders (and other professionals)



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Cambridge Carbon Footprint

Start by deciding what you want to achieve

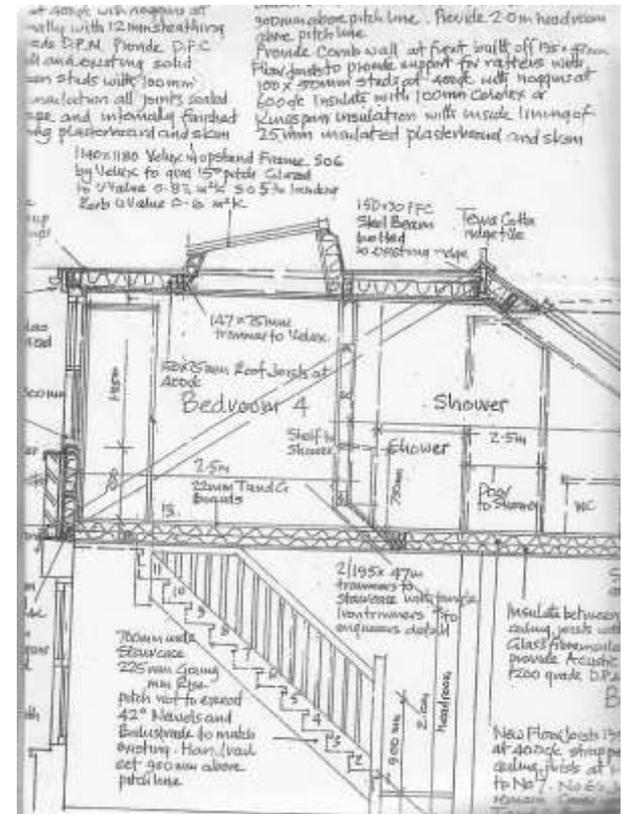
- Do your research, eg
 - Visit Open Eco Homes,
 - Read the case studies on the OEH website
- Think about your needs
- Develop ideas
- Write down your “specification”



Remember: once the Professionals have started work, changing your mind **COSTS**.

Using an “Architect”

- Decide if you need an RIBA Architect, or if an Architectural designer will do?
- Make sure you like their style before engaging them.
- Let them improve your ideas, but don't be bullied.



“Don't buy a dog and bark yourself”

The Builders (and building inspector)

- Choose carefully.
 - Reputation is a much better guide than price.
 - Good builders will be busy, so expect to wait.
 - The building inspector is (or can be) your friend.
- Expect disruption!



The Builders

They have a hard job .. Make it easier, but don't let yourself be walked over

- Be engaged
 - Take lots of photos
 - If something looks odd, say so.
 - Persist, but try not to nag.
- Be organised, and demand that they are too.
 - Provide a written specification (especially for eco-details)
 - Ask for advance notice of when they'll need things from you
 - Keep a snagging list
- Don't pay the final bill until they've finished

Maybe doubling!

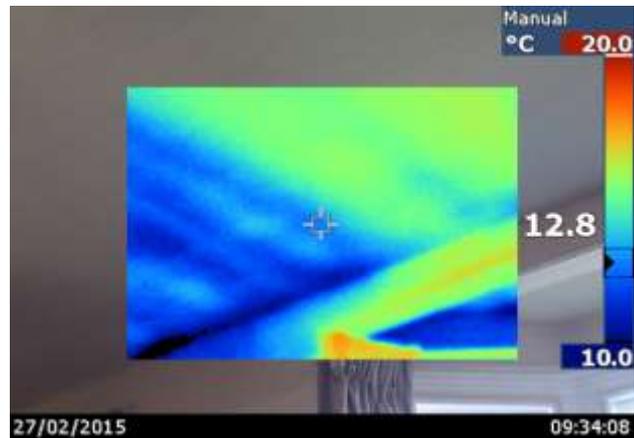
Maximising the performance of your insulation

- Check each layer of insulation for air tightness* and completeness before they cover it up.
 - Is any insulation missing?
 - Have they foamed the gaps*?
 - Have they taped all the joints*?
 - Are there any draughts*?
 - Have they double battened* any tri-iso?

* Important, but not well covered by building regs, so they won't do it unless you demand they do.



- CCF's thermal imaging cameras can be useful for finding and fixing missing insulation, while it still easy to do



When the job's finish

- Feel good about what you've achieved
- Don't torture yourself about the things you missed



We have used, and recommend.

- Builders
 - [Nick T Wallace](#)
 - [Green Hat Construction](#)
- Building inspector
 - [RH Building Consultancy Ltd](#)

And others, who are sadly no longer in business