

PROFILE

issue 4 Summer 2009

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RUSSWOOD

selected sustainable timber
FLOORING • CLADDING • DECKING



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Everyone needs a steady compass by which to navigate, so we have decided to use exactly that metaphor for this Profile. The four points of Russwood's compass are quality, cost, advice and the environment, and these are illustrated by articles about projects in locations around Scotland.

Advice & expertise

At Russwood we pride ourselves on the level of expertise we can offer. We are always happy to offer advice about species, profile and treatment of timber, so that our customers are well-informed when they place any order.

We also offer continuing professional development (CPD) seminars on external timber cladding, where MD John Russell visits businesses to talk about best practice in the selection and fitting of timber cladding, meaning that our customers will get the very best from their cladding. You can read more about these seminars on the CPD page in the timber cladding section of our website at www.russwood.co.uk. If you would like to book a seminar please get in touch with Iona Malcolm by email at iona@russwood.co.uk or by phone on 01540 673648.

High quality

Russwood achieves high quality by the careful selection and grading of all of its timber. Our customers can be assured that we have thoroughly checked our stock to ensure they receive the very best. We check that only heartwood (the dense, durable centre of a log) is used, to achieve maximum durability.

Cost

We have a wide range of timber cladding from which to choose. Many of the projects featured in this Profile use Scotlarch®. This trade name is our shorthand for selected Scottish-grown heartwood of



European Larch (which is admittedly a bit of a mouthfull!). Because it is grown in Scotland, transport requirements are minimal, and we can pass on these savings to our customers.

We are able to advise on best value for any of our products and can pass on details of likely lifetime and maintenance costs. When it comes to the details of your project, we are also on hand to offer optimum board lengths for your requirements, to minimise wastage and requirements to cut on site.

Environment

All our home grown timber is locally sourced and FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) approved, which means our customers can be assured that it is responsibly sourced.

This edition of Russwood's Profile concentrates on projects where we have supplied timber to Housing Associations across the country.

Housing Associations are becoming more important than ever in providing homes in today's economic conditions. Given their role as publicly-funded bodies, Housing Associations have a duty to obtain best value for money, and to demonstrate care for environmental concerns. On both counts Russwood is able to help with their customers' requirements. Our wide range of timber cladding offers benefits across the board (if you will forgive the predictable pun). Our Scotlarch® has clear benefits in terms of environmental credentials, being Scottish-grown and processed. Any concerns

about the quality of Scottish-grown timber can be set at ease by Russwood's scrupulous process of selection and grading. This Profile is intended to show you how the benefits offered by Russwood have worked for projects across Scotland; North, South, East and West. Wherever you are on the compass we warmly invite you to visit us at Station Sawmill in Newtonmore. We are also very happy to come to you with samples, details or our CPD presentation on external timber cladding. **Please get in touch by telephone on 01540 673648, by e-mail at mail@russwood.co.uk or via our website at www.russwood.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.**



Magnetic North

Housing Associations are always concerned with getting value for money, but they are now increasingly being asked to look at environmental as well as financial balance sheets.

While new builds allow architects and housing associations to start with a clean sheet on which to create ecologically-sound homes and communities, organisations are also now considering how best to use existing buildings. One such example was the derelict group of outbuildings at Springpark Farm on the outskirts of Thurso.

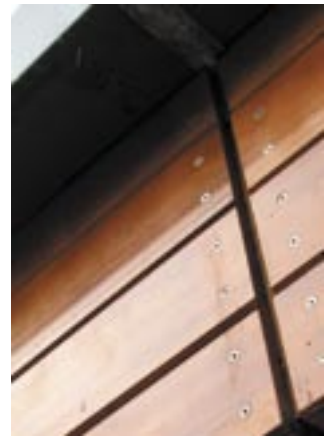
O'Brien Construction of Thurso contracted Pentarq Architects to create a design which would transform a group of draughty steadings into a community of welcoming, environmentally-friendly homes.

Pentland Homes have taken on the management of the flats and houses, and together the three organisations have created a cluster of desirable and affordable homes.

Alan Gray of Pentarq settled on square-sawn Sila A/B® boards to fit with the buildings' previous life as outbuildings. A number of the buildings were extended upwards with attic trusses to create one and a half storey homes with greater interior space. The practice had used Western Red Cedar in the past, but in this instance decided they could achieve the same high-quality appearance at a lower price from Russwood's Sila A/B® Siberian Larch boards.

The architects did not want a weathered look, so to protect the timber from salty gales of the Pentland Firth, the boards were coated with paint in a palette of subtle, earthy tones which toned with the stone buildings and was bright and visually lightweight. This collaboration between Pentarq, O'Brien and Pentland Homes proved so successful that they have repeated the winning formula in the Thor Housing development under construction in Thurso, even down to using the same colour palette for treating the Sila A/B®.

Russwood painting the town red (or white, or grey, or blue...)



The painted finish you see on Pentarq's Springpark project in Thurso is an option which is growing in popularity.

A number of customers prefer this look as opposed to the natural weathered finish of untreated timber cladding.

Russwood has recently installed a dedicated paint line at their Station Sawmill works, and are now able to offer factory-quality coating on any of our timber cladding. This will ensure correct application, at the proper moisture content with a consistent thickness of coating. No more waiting for a dry day to paint your cladding; Russwood can take care of it all undercover at our Newtonmore works, offering full quality control.

This new service will be of particular benefit to customers choosing our modified Accoya cladding. Accoya's stability results in paint finishes lasting at least twice the lifespan of that applied to unmodified timber, thereby significantly reducing maintenance

costs. The new paint facility will mean that Russwood can relieve our customers of the task of painting by doing this for them to factory-grade and guaranteed standards.

Nicol Russell architects of Dundee recently chose Accoya for the timber façade above the glazed frontage of their office. Rick Russell chose a precise, half-checked horizontal profile (RW5c) in a panelled style with stainless steel screws fixed only at board ends, thereby emphasising the intermediate face free fixings. Supplementary stainless steel fixings are secretly nailed at 600 mm centres. Rick chose Russwood's Accoya because of its knot-free, clean look, its guaranteed durability and improved stability.

Whether you seek home-grown or modified timber, or something in between, our timber cladding options all have benefits to offer to architects, builders and customers, including Housing Associations.

Southern Comfort...

Russwood's Sila A/B used in Edinburgh regeneration project

Dunedin Canmore's affordable housing at The Dell in Moredun Park, Edinburgh was designed by Assist Architects, who have over 30 years experience in social housing. The Dell, is phase two of the Moredun Park and Hyvot neighbourhood regeneration project, and is part of one of the largest regeneration initiatives in Edinburgh. Assist Architects are responsible for the development of over 400 new homes.

This environmentally-conscious proposal was achieved through detailed local consultation and

tenant participation. The result was a proposal that utilised innovative technologies to create a new look to affordable social housing with a true sense of identity but with minimal visual impact.

Siberian Larch cladding in Russwood's Sila A/B grade was specified for the principal elevations. Russwood's Sila A/B was chosen for its clean, sharp appearance, created by in-house grading and selection. This material fits perfectly with the brief for a minimal visual impact, and will weather to an attractive silver-grey over time.



North by North East

Laurencekirk lies to the North of Dundee, in the Howe of the Mearns. The area is celebrated as the setting of Lewis Grassie Gibbon's *A Scots Quair*, where the heroine, Chris Guthrie, experienced grinding poverty and hardship. Present-day residents of the Mearns now have a considerably easier life and more comfortable homes, thanks in part to Langstane Housing Association.

Langstane were the first Housing Association to use Russwood's timber cladding, on a project in Laurencekirk back in 2003. We are now delighted to feature a further Langstane project in *Profile*, again using Russwood's Sila A/B® Siberian Larch cladding.

Michael Gilmour Associates of Aberdeen were architects of the first phase, and have brought the same expertise and knowledge to the second phase on the site, combining affordability and high quality design for Langstane. The development encompasses sustainable development principles to achieve near zero heating requirements for each property, achieved by high specification of materials and insulation in the construction. This removes the requirement for wet central heating systems and provides a win-win situation; for tenant in reduced energy costs; landlord in reduced whole life-cycle maintenance costs and the environment with reduced

greenhouse gas emissions. The development principles have been embraced by all involved, with Michael Gilmour Associates currently detailing a larger residential development in Fraserburgh for Langstane Housing Association embracing the same sustainable principles.

Sila A/B® timber cladding was chosen as partial elevational treatment for its clean appearance and low maintenance requirements. The cladding specified is 25 x 150mm board on board cladding with a sawn finish.

Russwood's selected Larch weathers very evenly to a soft grey colour, which is often favoured by planners because of the way houses fit with the surrounding landscape. This offers continuity from the earlier development, along with the added benefit that, again, no on-going maintenance will be required for the untreated boards.

Langstane Housing Association, Michael Gilmour Associates and their choice of material are not the only link with the first phase development. CHAP Construction have also returned to the site, bringing the same attention to detail and high quality to this build.

Six years on from phase one of this development, the original tenants are happy in their well-insulated timber homes, as we hope the new residents will be. None of Grassie Gibbons' cold *Grey Granite* here.



Way out West...snug in Scotlarch® on Skye

Wittets Architects have recently completed a project very close to home. The twenty eight new houses at Campbell's Farm sit snugly into the gentle slopes below Beinn na Caillich in Broadford, Isle of Skye, where the practice is based. Wittets also have an office in Elgin, Moray. The houses are all clad in Russwood's Scotlarch®, using profile RW102. This naturally-durable timber is perfect for the challenging climate of this island location. With careful fitting and attention to detail, the boards will stand up to any heavy weather that the Sound of Raasay can throw at it.

The homes were built for Lochalsh

and Skye Housing Association. They are mostly semi-detached with some singly-sited and, while closely placed, are designed to give privacy of outlook to each house.

Construction was carried out by Tulloch Homes Express with ROK Building, and provides a mix of rented and homestake properties. There are six different designs ranging from small, two-bedroom to six person, four-bedroom houses. Solar panels provide hot water and heat recovery fans ventilate clean, warm air. Externally, the houses are generously supplied with high performance double glazing and Russwood's Scotlarch® provides an attractive and sustainable wall cladding.

The increasing use of Scottish-grown timber cladding is proving popular not just with architects, but with planners, builders and occupiers too. The Housing Association reports high levels of tenant approval, so everyone is a winner.

EAST IS EAST...



2008 proved to be a year of celebrations for Home Scotland, who marked their tenth anniversary in December. The housing association opened its 3000th home in management at Garthamlock in Glasgow, pipping Dundee to the post for the landmark event. However, there were still celebrations to be had on the East coast when James "Plum" Donaldson turned 75 in December. Plum, who is still going strong at an age when most people are putting their feet up, is Home Scotland's Clerk of Works; his job is to make sure buildings are constructed to the architect's specification. He is certainly still keeping a close eye on his projects, and Home's Douglas and Honeygreen projects in



Dundee have been completed right on time by Muirfield Contracts Ltd. An innovative 32mm thick, bevel-edged sawn faced, board has been used for the lower level of the façade to great effect.