Mike Neate, Eco- DC

www.eco-dc.co.uk

The Cropthorne Autonomous House

AECB 2010 Annual Conference

Structure of the design and building team

- Neill stopped at building Regs, detail design left to me.
- · Lebrun's and the credit crunch.
- Myself and Graham
- Management and sub contractors
- · Client and team

Basement

Huge amount of spoil

Use of fly ash in all cement elements



Decision for whole basement due to tanking and MVHR runs.

RIW Bentonite clay

Discussion over insulation in basement walls





Recycled infill materials

MVHR ground pipe air intake

Levelling Contact with earth Soak away





Surface water and

land drain Pipe work

Clay vs. PVC

Cost balance



Grey water issue with Building Control and move to an independent regulatory body for Building Control

Environment agency



Cast in situ floors

Air-tightness
Lead in time
Screed
Build time
penetrations





Stairwell possible with cast in Situ but pre cast stair





Better adhesion to blockwork

Parging exterior necessary

Presented problems with I -beams and tolerances

Walls

Thermal mass/thin jointing for air-tightness

Problem with normal building tolerances



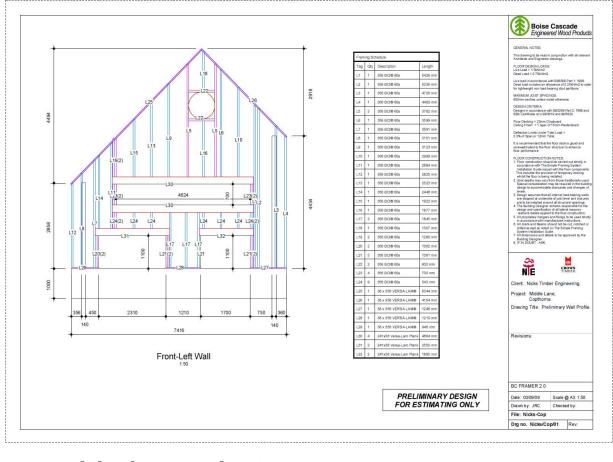
Awkward detail with plinth and window/door details

I beams

I beams vs. cork EPS

Cheaper with standard beams

Chance to use thermal packer



Random window positions added complexity

Reduced timber and cold bridging wherever possible

Difficulty with layers, inaccuracy, cost.

Why not other method?

Roof

Problem supporting 100mm insulation layer with 120mm Rafters therefore introduced insulated timber packer.



Insulation procurement price and waste saving by combining frametherm and drytherm



Air-tightness and roof

Personal mistrust of osb being sufficient.



Membrane to fleece/tape failure

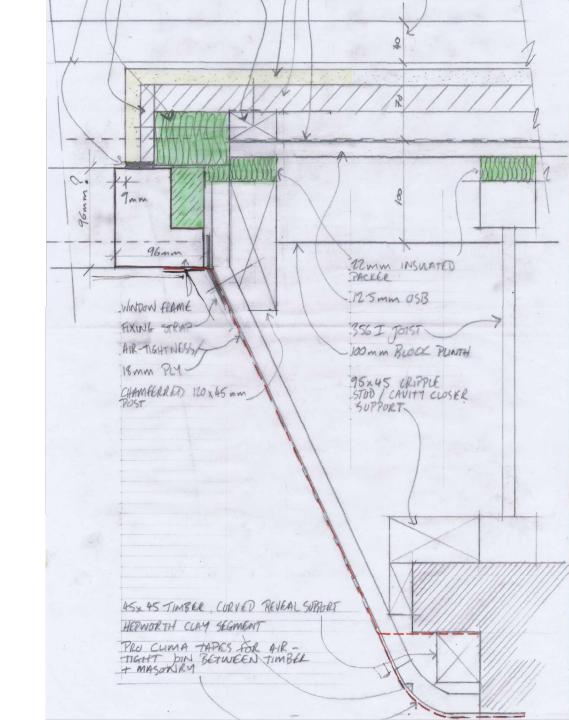
Windows/doors



Installation

Bridging cavity combined with jamb detail to take window boxing.

Air-tightness and curved splayed reveals

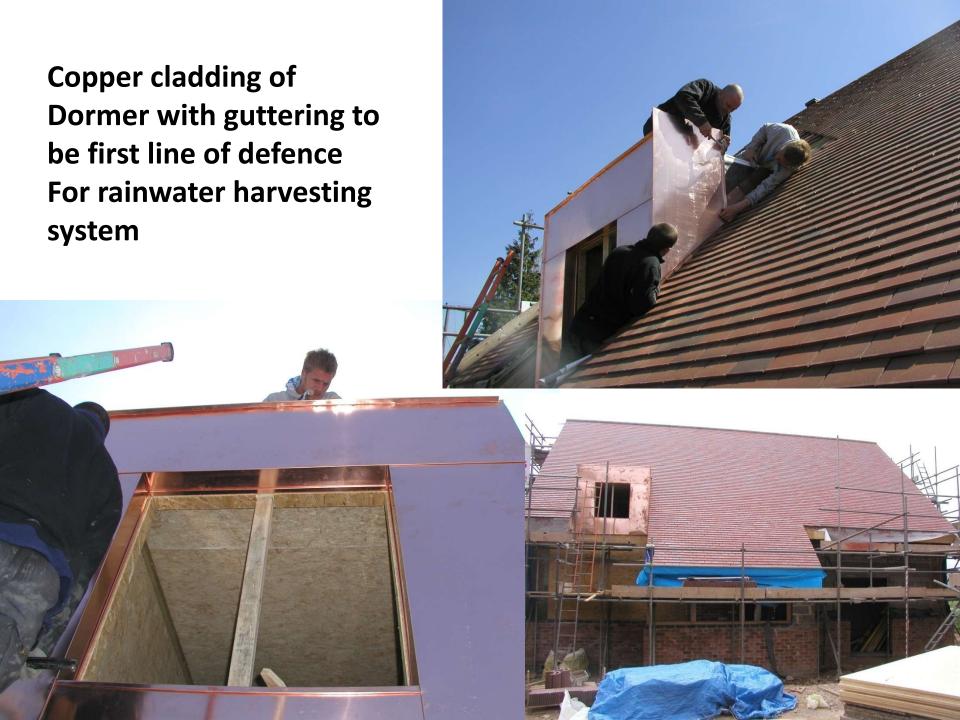


Dormer window

OSB and ply linings with 300mm PU insulation board

No cold bridging





The round window!!!





Reveals needing bonding or tile adhesive

Difficulty with concrete ceilings

Lots of moaning but looks good





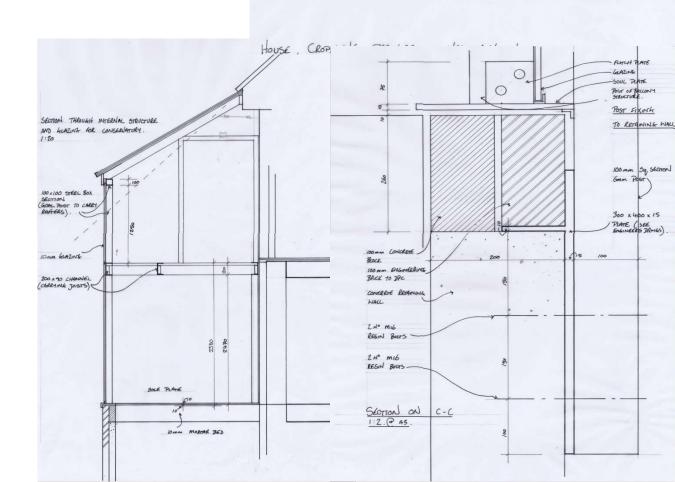
Conservatory re-design

Shading

Cost

Ventilation

Change to spiral Staircase



Services

MVHR

LED lighting



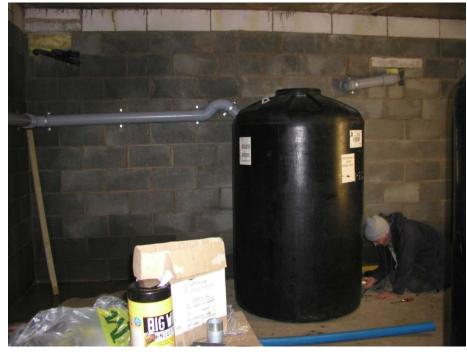


Low smoke zero halogen fields

No PVC rule

Rainwater harvesting system





Composting chamber and chutes

What would we do differently?

- · Walls
- Round window
- Full plans and detailed costs at start