

# News

## Passivhaus office and apartments for rent

Anyone looking to rent a low energy office or apartment should look no further than Foxrock - a new complex in the south Dublin suburb will be the first mixed development in Ireland to be certified by the PassivHaus Institut, according to its developer.

Constructed by green builders Viking House and consisting of two apartments and two offices, the complex boasts a space heating demand of just 8kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr for the apartments and 12kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr for the 130m<sup>2</sup> office space.

Viking House specified 240mm poroton block for the wall construction with 200mm of breathable polystyrene insulation externally, giving the walls a U-value of 0.125W/m<sup>2</sup>K. An extension built with Quinn Lite's aerated concrete block was also externally insulated with 200mm of polystyrene, and has a U-value of 0.142W/m<sup>2</sup>K.

Viking House insulated the roof with 250mm of cellulose to give it a U-value of 0.117W/m<sup>2</sup>K, while triple-glazed windows with a U-value of 0.6W/m<sup>2</sup>K for the glazed section and 1.28W/m<sup>2</sup>K for the frame were also specified.

The development is currently home to a veterinary clinic, but one office and two apartments are just completed and available to rent. Viking House told *Construct Ireland* they also expect the veterinary clinic to be the first passive-certified poroton block building in the country once certification comes through from the Passivhaus Institut in Darmstadt.

(right) The Kill passive house development, with vacant office & apartment to the left



## Econstruction products partner with UK green building specialists

Econstruction products has announced the launch of a new partnership with UK based sustainable building product specialists Natural Building Technologies to promote their products on the Irish market.

"NBT are the UK's market leader for developing sustainable building materials and have proven over many years to deliver truly low energy and low carbon solutions on the continent and across the UK," said Econstruction's technical director, Barry McCarthy.

NBT's comprehensive collection of high performance insulation products include Pavaclad and Diffutherm wood-fibre external insulation, Pavadentro internal insulation and Hempwood Batt insulation.

Suitable for either new or refurbishment projects, Pavaclad and Diffutherm are breathable, high performance systems that can be quickly and easily fitted to the exterior face of the walls and roof of a building. "As they are installed to the exterior of the building structure, they minimise thermal bridging and improve wind-tightness levels to further enhance the overall thermal performance of the building," said McCarthy.

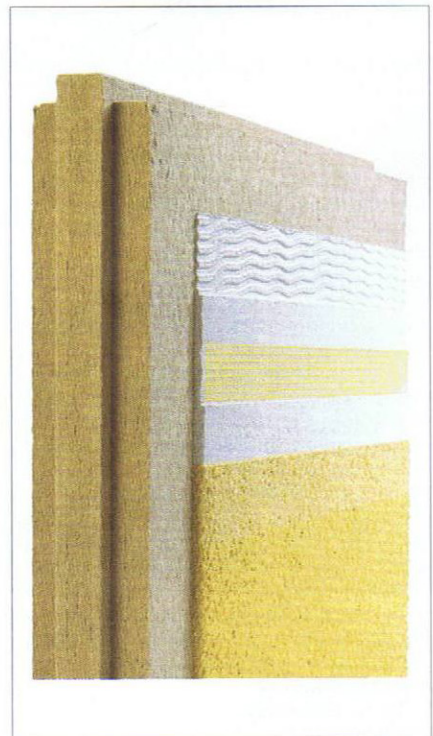
Pavadentro, an innovative wood-fibre insulation board is targeted specifically at

the repair and refurbishment markets.

"The Pavadentro board has been created to effectively insulate external walls on the inside, greatly reducing the risk of condensation build-up within the building fabric," McCarthy said. "It's ideal for use in projects which cannot be insulated externally, such as listed or heritage buildings, where the external appearance must remain untouched".

Econstruction hope that HempWood Batt Insulation will prove a popular green option for insulating both residential and non-residential buildings. "They're comprised of wood-fibre, hemp and textile fibre binding, they have a thermal performance of 0.038W/mK and excellent thermal mass. According to McCarthy, the batts give very high levels of acoustic insulation, are fully breathable and non-toxic, non-hazardous and irritant free, non-slumping, settling or sagging and deliver a tight fit in between studs or rafters.

"This new partnership represents our commitment to increase the availability of high performance, sustainable insulation systems to the Irish market," McCarthy said. "Along with our award-winning spray foam product BioBased Insulation, we are now in a position to provide a solution for every insulation need."



(above) NBT's Diffutherm wood fibre insulation, now available through Econstruction Products