

4 Model development

You don't need to shout about being green, as this affordable housing project in Suffolk shows. Architects Riches Hawley Mikhail have dubbed it 'eco minimalism', with not a solar panel or wind turbine in sight. All 26 homes face south to gain energy from the sun, rainwater is collected to water the gardens and flush toilets, and heat and hot water are provided by a shared biomass boiler. The homes are also the first in the UK to use Hemcrete insulation applied as a spray, and on such a large scale. The material is a mix of hemp and lime that fills the timber frame and actually locks carbon in, making it super-eco-friendly. Impressively, the project is expected to use around 60 per cent less carbon than a typical house throughout its construction and lifetime use (020 7247 6418; rhmarchitects.com; or for more information on Hemcrete see limetechnology.co.uk).

