



PRESS RELEASE: MARCH 2011

TERRAPIN BRINGS HYBRED SYSTEM TO ECOBUILD

Offsite construction specialist Terrapin demonstrated the versatility of its Hybred solution for sustainable buildings at this year's Ecobuild show.

Terrapin built its own single level accommodation unit from its innovative Hybred module design at its factory in Milton Keynes and then transported it complete to the ExCel exhibition centre in London to create a unique, eye-catching stand. This came complete with living area, bedroom and bathroom pod areas, demonstrating Terrapin's high quality, bespoke, offsite solution.

This steel-framed corner loaded system means Terrapin's buildings do not need to be 'box like' in appearance and provide more design scope for contemporary features, such as internal atria or balconies. It also makes it possible to have corner-to-corner glazed walls, which enable a large amount of natural light to enter the building, providing a more attractive and airy living space. Adjustable columns mean that historic design constraints on heights and widths are no longer an issue.

The design of Terrapin's Hybred unit featured an innovative robust structural frame that can be 'clothed' to meet a huge variety of functional, aesthetic, and performance criteria, including low carbon or 'A' rated zero carbon building. The beauty of this system is that modules can be stacked on top – providing a simple method of replicating a single storey dwelling or office space many times.

The structure was created using structural insulated panels (SIPS) with a core of sustainable expanded polystyrene insulation, which achieved an A rating in the BRE's Green Guide to Specification. The SIPs provide these innovative modular units with a high level of air tightness and the wall offers very high thermal performance and therefore a low *U* value.

In a further demonstration of Terrapin's flexible approach, the unit also featured a concrete floor with underfloor heating, a feature that is not normally associated within the

capabilities of some offsite providers but is popular, as it means energy requirements and costs are substantially reduced.

The interior of the dwelling will also showcase Terrapin's recently developed bathroom pod concept, which incorporates the very best in MMC technology to deliver flexibility and excellence in building design.

Terrapin also demonstrated how, with its Hybred building system, units are fully recyclable, as they can be re-clad to meet the requirements of other projects in the future and also to make them bespoke to the requirements of the lease/hire market. Terrapin also displayed a wide range of different cladding options on the exterior of its building, such as cedar, brick and rainscreen cladding, to meet project and performance requirements.

Adrian Day, Managing Director at Terrapin, explains: "Our stand demonstrated just how flexible our approach is to offsite construction and how, with our Hybred system, it really does mean that anything is possible. With our new corner-loaded modules, there is huge scope in terms of architectural design. This type of construction, backed by the very highest standards of quality and performance of the buildings, means we can offer the very best in sustainable design."

Terrapin's Hybred building system is proving popular across sites throughout the country, not least because of its benefits in reduced site traffic, fewer on-site personnel and less noise and disruption for neighbours. Once the units are constructed in Terrapin's factory controlled environment, they can be simply craned into position, providing a much quicker and simpler build schedule with less need for deliveries on site. Groundwork costs are also minimised because the building requires fewer load-bearing foundations. This means that contractor time on site (and therefore cost) is substantially reduced and the developer can begin generating rents much sooner.

Terrapin is one of very few offsite companies that provides a complete turnkey service, including concept and design, manufacturing, siteworks, though to landscaping and final handover.

Terrapin operates to ISO90001 quality standards and is renowned for its right first time approach. This means that every component is checked before leaving the factory – ensuring clients of the highest quality build on site.

Terrapin is one of the UK's leaders in offsite construction. The company has pioneered Modern Methods of Construction since 1949 and is renowned in the construction industry for its bespoke service, its complete project management and its flexible and individual approach to each project.

For more information on Terrapin, telephone 01908 270900 or email: info@terrapiin-ltd.co.uk or visit the website www.terrapiin-ltd.co.uk.