



## Native Architects

### Overview:

*The Challenge:* The UK's construction, demolition and excavation sector is responsible for 120 million tonnes of waste each year... and sustainably labelled homes often don't perform as expected.

*The Circular Solution:* Native Architects design sustainable architecture with a 'fabric first' approach that reduces waste.

*The Result:* Genuinely sustainable buildings designed and created using natural.

### The Challenge:

Conventional design and construction processes generate huge amounts of waste: 120 million tonnes in the UK each year.

### Circular Opportunities

Save Energy 

Reduce Waste 

Boost Your Brand 



However, buildings which claim sustainable credentials through their use of systems designed to minimise daily energy use - green panels, greywater systems and so on - are also problematic.

These superficial sustainability measures are often labelled as 'greenwash' or 'eco-bling' by their critics because they do little to negate the impact of high carbon building materials and construction processes.



Further challenges are presented by the fact that clients with sustainability demands need access to trusted suppliers and builders. However, the current educational system isn't structured to produce construction workers, builders and architects with the right skill-set/ methods for this service.

## **The Solution:**

Native Architects, based in Fulford, was founded over twenty years ago on environmentally sustainable principles. With these values, Native attracts like-minded, skilled employees who put sustainability at the heart of every design.

Their approach is 'fabric first', i.e. using natural, renewable and sustainable materials to produce well-designed buildings sensitive to their locality. As such, materials such as hemp, straw and timber are often integral to their designs. In Yorkshire, these materials are easy to access from our thriving agricultural industry. These materials have the added benefits of good breathability, low toxicity, and promote good indoor air quality.

Clients can incorporate renewable and low-carbon technologies in their building but, as founder Sally Kirk Walker explains, "Where possible, it's better to design a building that's naturally self-ventilating than it is to focus on installing an expensive ventilation system, whatever the energy source."

In essence, Native focus on sustainable design from the outset, rather than add-on sustainability measures at the end of the build. Seeking inspiration from nature and cradle-to-cradle design, Native's designs often mimic living systems (e.g., naturally self-ventilating buildings), and avoid using petrochemical based products as they can degrade internal air quality and are non-recyclable.



## The Result:

Native have created a strong brand that assures clients they will be provided a bespoke process which balances sustainable principles against practical need - and which can save them money.

“We’re committed to working in as low-impact a way as possible, but we’re aware that there are certain standards that need to be met - a domestic refurbishment project will have very different requirements to a new commercial build, for example,” says Sally.

“But we have great technical resource within our team and a network of trusted suppliers and contractors accustomed to sourcing and working with the materials we love to use.”

“We want to dispel certain myths - for example, that sustainable design is expensive. A truly sustainable build can save money in the long-term - to go back to the example of a self-ventilating building, the client can save significant amounts by not installing the expensive ventilation system that has to be powered somehow.”

“At the end of the day, we’re here to create inspiring, healthy, robust low energy buildings that don’t cost the earth - in every sense.”

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