



super E arrives in the UK

A growing trend towards energy efficient housing, coupled with increased pressure from the British government on builders to comply with stricter building regulations, has left many in the industry feeling like it is time for a change. So it is no coincidence that this year sees the introduction of the Canadian Super E House program in the UK.

Super E represents a new standard for energy efficient housing, and is designed to match export-ready Canadian housing companies with experienced UK builders to provide the highest quality timber housing for UK homeowners. Backed by years of Canadian research and experience, a Super House house reflects certain guiding principles – comfort, affordability, durability, indoor air quality, energy efficiency and environmental responsibility. The Super E House Program provides the framework to ensure that these principles are delivered.

A Super E house is energy efficient, comfortable and quiet. Various components of the building envelope – such as a continuous air barrier, tightly fitting high-performance windows and doors, and computer-assessed insulation levels – work together to provide a comfortable, quiet, draft-free interior and a home that achieves high scores for energy efficiency. A moisture barrier not only protects the durability of the building by keeping unwanted moisture out (condensation, mildew and mould adversely affect building structures), it works with a whole-house mechanical ventilation system to provide good indoor air quality at all times and a healthy living environment throughout the home. This state of the art system pumps fresh air to every room in the home while simultaneously exhausting stale air to the outdoors. The system saves energy by using heat from the outgoing stale air to warm the incoming fresh air. Super E systems work together to ensure the best

indoor air quality available today.

Super E homes must meet stringent requirements from design to the finishing touches. Each house is completely evaluated before any digging or building is done. Software developed by NRCan simulates the exact conditions where the house will be built accounting for flexibility in layout, lighting, space heating, cooling and ventilation. It allows house design to be optimized and the meeting of stringent Super E requirements ensured before construction begins.

The program has already achieved significant success in Japan, a partnership that began over ten years ago and with the first Super E house being built three and a half years ago. The houses, which have been built from Hokkaido to Kyushi, use about 20 to 30 percent less energy for heating and reduce heat loss by 50 percent, compared to the average new house built today. This success has encouraged recognition of a window of opportunity for Canada to capitalize on recent trends in the UK housing market.

Award winning UK house-builder, Sunley Homes, has recently announced its partnership agreement with the Super E House Program, and work has already begun on the first of three houses to be built in the UK this year. But whilst the benefits to the buyer are clear, how will the Super E House Program give UK home builders that competitive edge in today's changing market?

Canada's Super E Program drives excellence in customer service, technology and quality assurance. This award-winning program is about sharing knowledge and building international partnerships with UK companies.

Team work

Key to every Super E House Program project is the design partnership between the UK and Canadian company. Canadian affli-

ates work with their UK counterparts who are experts in complying with all UK codes and standards. This partnership ensures the integration of all the design elements into the best product – for price, performance, comfort, energy efficiency and durability.

Specialized training

Any UK company joining the scheme has access to specialized training from their Canadian expert affiliates to learn how to construct houses to meet Super E requirements, and to ensure that testing protocols are followed.

In the spirit of the program, the need for training is always determined by the company itself, but members have ongoing access to innovative building approaches, practices and services, access to a pool of experts to solve technical problems and on site assistance provided by member companies. There is also a yearly conference and meeting for feedback, training and developing partnerships.

Becoming a Super E member

Becoming a member is simple. Complete an application with your Canadian Expert Affiliate and submit the application to the Super E office for approval. Once you have approval, sign the license agreement between your company and the Government of Canada. The license agreement authorizes you to advertise your first Super E project and to use the Super E name and logo.

Complete your first Super E house with your Canadian Expert Affiliate. It is the joint responsibility of the UK company and the Canadian Expert Affiliate to ensure that the house meets Super E requirements.

When you successfully complete, test and enroll your first house, you will qualify as a Super E Member. Let building commence!