

Self-Build Stories



Self-building a future-proofed home suitable for multi-generational living

Introduction:

Our clients, Roselin and Martin, wanted to build a house which would also have room for their adult son, who works abroad but needs somewhere to live when he returns home. They also required suitable living space for Martin's elderly mother, who has some mobility issues, when she visits. They were keen to plan for the longer term too and wanted to be sure that their new home would be future proofed for when they are both older.

Financing the project

There are a number of different ways of financing a self-build. Some people can use cash, while others may raise the money by selling or remortgaging their existing home. A custom build or self-build mortgage, or bridge finance may also be options.

Why self-build?

Roselin and Martin had wanted to build their own home for years, but had struggled to find a plot of land to fit their requirements. As well as it being in a convenient location for their commute, with plenty of privacy, but without being too remote, they needed to build a house suitable for several generations to live in comfortably together. They also dreamed of having a good-sized garden to grow their own vegetables and they had very specific ideas about the kitchen layout, wanting to have two kitchens incorporated into the design.



The Design

This beautiful self-build house, named 'Thaiboosa', which means 'Grace of God', is located on the outskirts of Weaverham, in the former garden plot of another home. South-facing, overlooking farmland, it has been built in a traditional Cheshire style, with a few stunning design elements inspired by the self-builders' South Asian heritage.



The front porch features two alcoves, reminiscent of many traditional Indian homes. To the rear of the property, the almost Georgian-style rear elevation contrasts with a single storey sunroom, which runs along the back of the house, another element which harks back to the family's Asian family history.

Religion plays an important role in this family's life. A beautiful shrine has been constructed above one fireplace, cleverly and discreetly concealed behind doors when not in use.

The upper storey showcases feature windows, with a circular window overlooking Weaverham, while oversized Velux roof windows provide breathtaking views across the village and beyond.



Rising to a design challenge

The site team had some concerns about the softwood staircase potentially being a little slippery so the stairs are carpeted, with a beautiful oak handrail and a painted balustrade. As an alternative to the stairs for any older residents, especially anyone with mobility issues, a particularly clever touch for this house is the lift to the first floor. Carefully disguised behind a door, the lift is completely hidden from view, so it does not disrupt the aesthetic of the house at all, but is sure to be very useful for older visitors and residents when the time comes to use it.

With the couple's vision for multi-generational living in mind, an open plan lounge area was constructed between the ground and first floor levels, with an oversized window, to make the most of natural light, and create a spacious seating area. This means that any older residents, such as their mother-in law, can enjoy some peace and quiet, as well as a wonderful view, without having to come the whole way down the stairs.



The owners' favourite features of their self-build project

Roselin explains,

“ I like to cook, a lot! And I especially enjoy traditional Indian cookery. With the design of our new house being for quite open plan living downstairs, I was a little worried about very strong and spicy smells from the kitchen wafting through the whole house! The solution we have come to is to build two kitchens. One, which I call my frying kitchen, can be closed off from the other, so I can cook to my heart's content without any concerns. The main kitchen will be an island kitchen.

The frying kitchen is decorated in varying shades of grey, while a beautiful shade of blue was chosen for the island kitchen.

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The self-build experience

Roselin says,

“Although many people build their own homes in India, we didn't know how to go about it in the UK at all. There is far more regulation around what you can build and where you can build it here, but CB Homes steered us through the process and we learned so much in really quite a short space of time.

The CB Homes team was particularly helpful when it came to making choices, from small elements of kitchen design to much bigger things, like the staircase. We were grateful to be shown a whole selection of staircase photos, so we could choose our favourite style, which would work within the overall design and our budget.

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Roselin's advice for anyone building their own home is to do plenty of research into aspects like kitchens and bathrooms as early as you can. Remember that you won't have to choose your finishes right away, but you do need to know what layout you want very early in the building process.

“I would not want to put anyone off the idea of self-building though, it is really enjoyable. Do just go for it, but make sure you have a team like CB Homes to support you.

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A word from CB Homes

There are always many decisions to be made regarding the design and finishes in a self-build project. When it comes to the heating supply choice, for example, that has a big impact on design features. For this house, as our clients selected an air source heat pump and have underfloor heating on the ground floor, they needed to know what their options were for the type of flooring they needed. As they opted for radiators on the upper floors, as a more cost effective solution for this home, they had an even wider range of options for the upstairs flooring.

We took great pride in creating a perfect fusion between traditional Cheshire design features and some more unusual elements which reflect the homeowners' cultural heritage, creating an ideal environment for the whole extended family to feel at home.

