

PLOT 2: The Stone House

NORD ARCHITECTURE AND ROBERTSON HIGHLAND

The Stone House forms part of Scotland's first ever Housing Expo which will take place at Milton of Leys throughout August. The Expo will provide a vision for the next generation of Scottish housing and is based on an established model found in Finland and mainland Europe. It is set to put Scotland firmly on the map as an exemplar of sustainable living.

Collectively the houses and their contents will showcase of the wealth of Highland and Scottish design talent, including interior and product design. The initiative also provides a 'test bed' for construction and technological innovation, which will inform Scottish house building in the future. The houses will inspire developers to learn new skills and source fresh ideas to incorporate into future designs, while demonstrating how new building standards can be met on energy efficiency and carbon reduction.

With kids getting in free of charge, the Expo event will offer a great day out for families, visitors to the area and anyone who designs or builds homes, or who has an interest in design and the whole idea of living in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way. There will be a different programme of events every day throughout August and will be free to children accompanied by adults.

The Stone House reflects its surroundings through both its materials and characteristics specific to the landscape setting with its daily and seasonal changes in colour, texture, light and spectacle. The house is clad in Caithness stone therefore making a strong reference to the historic housing and landscape tradition of the Highlands of Scotland.

The property, designed by Glasgow's NORD Architecture, focuses around the concept of social interaction and takes its inspiration from traditional tenement living. Whilst every feature of this home is contemporary, its kitchen and utility areas are situated in an 'outhouse' rather than in the main body of the house, demonstrating a more traditional design approach.

Split into four separate homes, the property demonstrates versatility with two of homes having their living area upstairs, with the bedrooms downstairs; and the other two featuring a downstairs living space and bedrooms on the upper floor. A decked terrace area on the upper floor is shared between two of the homes to allow owners to interact.

Flexibility is a key feature of the Stone House and the space is designed to offer today's modern family a more evolutionary approach to living by adapting to their changing needs. Space at the back to the house can be used as garden room, home office, play area or green house depending on what is most suitable for its occupiers.

One large long window links the four houses together whilst providing a view of the individual courtyards and enabling the maximum amount of natural light to flood into the property. Remaining

windows around the property are cleverly positioned to either provide stunning outlooks or to bring in significant natural light.

For tickets and further information visit www.scotlandshousingexpo.com