



GREEN DOESN'T NEED TO BE GREY

Dear Editor

The announcement of the RIBA awards brings yet further proof of the dramatic improvements that have been made in using steel-framing alongside forward-thinking design, firmly laying to rest the out-dated image of grey corrugated-iron buildings.

As steel-framed homes are more sustainable and better for the environment than alternatives like timber and brick-and-block, it is good to highlight that their use does not constrain design, giving architects the freedom to show that green doesn't need to be grey.

Consider also the evidence for steel's flexibility: the Bourbon Lane development in West London utilises the low cost of steel-framing to provide affordable homes, the Abito Apartments in Salford show that off-site fabrication should not limit creativity and Wandsworth's Herringbone Houses demonstrate how easily steel-framing can work alongside other materials.

These buildings are thoroughly deserving of the recognition RIBA has given them. Let's hope they will serve as inspiration that modern design and forward-thinking approaches to sustainability do not rely on old-fashioned materials and techniques.

Regards,

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Chair, Steel Homes Group