



With high-gloss black acrylic units, limestone worktops and a travertine marble tiled floor, the kitchen leads from the first floor living space through double walnut doors.



rainwater run-off – some of which finds its way to the nearby river – is free of toxic residues.

Occupying a magical setting in its own wooded valley, Lyneham Coombe is stunning to look at, fun to visit, comfortable to live in, cheap to run and proof that a green lifestyle does not involve compromising the enjoyment of a splendidly ambitious architectural statement. This is truly a house for the 21st century and beyond.

"My role as an amateur builder has helped me in my work as a judge, and the parties in my court are sometimes surprised to discover how much I know about mixing concrete – but I cannot say that judging has helped me much as a builder," comments Bob. "It's one thing to tell other people how to run a job to time and on budget, and quite another to achieve that on your own project!"

timber panels – all offering superb natural insulation. The double glazing has an argon filled 12mm cavity, and the building's walls and roof consist of internal plasterboard, a triple layer of thin but hugely efficient foil-backed Trisol insulation, plywood panels and external cladding: Western red cedar boards for the walls and golden cedar shingles on the roof.

Other green features include a grey-water recycling system, oxygen-treated sewage disposal and a rainwater harvesting system, whilst the house itself is constructed without the use of any copper or lead, ensuring that the

**PICTURES Opposite – far left**

The master bedroom offers the perfect space for relaxing, with its natural strip walnut floorboards, exposed ceiling beams and a door to the rear verandah. A wet room with a power shower and travertine tiled flooring over underfloor heating has mosaic tiling to the walls.

**Left top** The main living areas are on the first floor.

**Left** A detail showing the hand-crafted stairs.

**Right** The design maximises outside/inside living, with lots of glazing and doors leading out on decked verandahs and balconies to take advantage of the lovely views.

Lyneham Coombe is currently for sale through Exeter's Jackson-Stops & Staff office. 01392 114222. [jackson-stops.co.uk](http://jackson-stops.co.uk)

**Bob's top tip**

You can't invest too much time in planning before work begins on site, and a clear plan showing the critical path of the works from the outset is extremely helpful. John's project management experience was vital for this.

