

73%

Of Britons claim to be "concerned"
about the environment

SOURCE: WWW.GREENCONSUMERGUIDE.COM

I think the Earth is going to get rid of
a large number of us quite soon"

AUTHOR PHILIP FULLMAN ON ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTRO



ECO-FRIENDLY | The bathroom would recycle water, walls would move to change the size of a room and every home would have a roof garden to save space

YOUR ECO-FRIENDLY HOME IN 2106

A window on the future

JOHN DUNNE
for thelondonpaper

THIS is what the average semi-detached house will look like in a 2106, a top architect has predicted.

The eco-friendly homes are mini power stations run with energy from the sun and wind. A local power grid could also be set up to provide any surplus energy to the community.

The predictions by multinational design firm Arup include bathrooms which recycle water, solar panels and gas-filled triple-glazed windows.

Simon Reddy, policy director of Greenpeace, welcomed the environmentally-friendly designs, but urged people to save energy now rather than wait 100 years.

He advised homeowners to fit lagging in their lofts,

have double-glazed windows, get cavity wall insulation and use energy-saving lightbulbs before they start thinking about solar panels.

"The starting point should be reducing the energy demands of existing buildings by making them as energy efficient as possible," he said.

"If you take a Victorian terraced house that leaks heat the last thing you want to do is start making energy on the

We should be reducing energy demands of existing buildings"
GREENPEACE

roof." In contrast, next century's semi would have insulation which automatically

adjusts to control the heat indoors.

Walls will be moveable to allow rooms to change size according to the changing needs of the occupants.

Roof gardens will also become commonplace as a way of saving land, and some versions will be built on stilts if they are in areas prone to flooding.

With the removal of stamp duty on green homes, Arup is

predicting its design will become the norm. A spokesman for Zurich Insurance, which commissioned the design, said: "History shows that we can't predict the future with absolute certainty, but we can prepare for it.

"Through this study we have tried to imagine how changes in our environment and working and social life may impact the types of homes we'll live in."

EBOLA VIRUS KILLS 5,000

Gorillas dying out

WIDIANE MOUSSA
for thelondonpaper

SCIENTISTS believe more than 5,000 gorillas in Africa have been killed by the Ebola virus in the past four years.

They have warned that the world's largest ape is suffering such a dramatic fall in population it could soon become extinct, according to reports

in the journal *Science*. The latest studies in Congo prove for the first time that there is direct transmission of Ebola, one of the deadliest infectious agents, from one ape to another. The disease has previously infected humans in Gabon and Congo.

Magdalena Bernhejo, of the conservation group Eco-systemes Forestiers d'Afrique

Centrale, based in Gabon, said: "During each human outbreak, carcasses of western gorillas and chimpanzees have been found in neighbouring forests."

The scale of the virus is shown by the death toll of the group Dr Bernhejo was studying in Congo. During a four-month period in 2003, 130 out of 143 gorillas had died.



DEADLY CONTACT | Scientists have proved gorilla to gorilla infection for first time