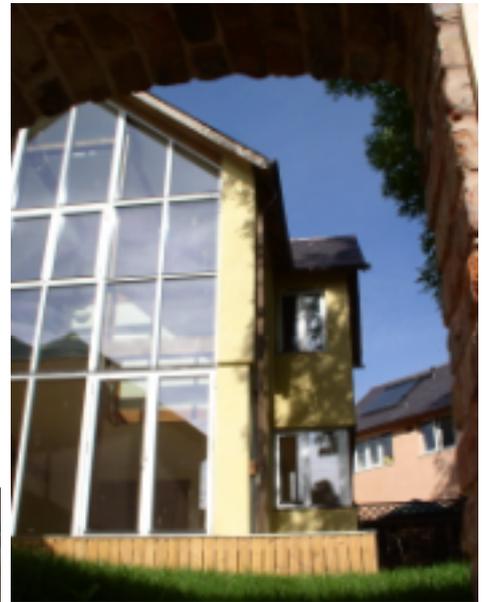


Bells Court,
Bishop's Castle
Shropshire

The Living Village Trust commissioned the design of five ecological houses, to be built behind the Six Bells public house – which itself had been bought by the Trust as a community resource.

The houses – constructed by a developer, Ecostruct – were designed to the highest 'green' standards. They have post and beam timber frames of homegrown Douglas Fir and high levels of thermal insulation, using 'Warmcel' recycled cellulose. The external joinery is triple glazed with low-E coatings and argon fill in softwood frames. High performance condensing gas boilers with solar water heating and advanced controls complete the low-energy package. Natural finishes, such as recycled brickwork, lime renders and limewash, homegrown oak floors and organic paints are used throughout.

The design layout reflects the dense street pattern of Bishop's Castle, with pedestrian 'shuts' leading to houses. All houses are south-facing with small, private courtyard gardens, and are accessed off a shared covered way and courtyard. Car parking is on a lower level. Each house has a highly glazed two storey 'sunspace' that makes a spectacular studio room, or just a pleasant place to be on a cold sunny day.



Client: Living Village Trust /
Ecostruct
Location: Bishop's Castle
Design: 2000
Build: 2002
Cost: £500,000
Area: 450m²