

Futuristic LoftPOD Saves Energy and Cuts Carbon Emissions in Victorian Property

A cutting edge, super insulated LoftPOD has been installed in an ordinary Victorian terrace house in Leicester.

The LoftPOD was commissioned by East Midlands Housing as part of its project to devise practical, internal solutions to significantly cut carbon emissions in a Victorian 2-bed terrace on Cottesmore Road, Leicester.

At seven and a half metres by three and a half metres, and weighing under four tonnes, the LoftPOD – which was pre-fabricated off-site in Cumbria by EnviroHomes Ltd – replaces the entire roof section, providing high levels of insulation and an extra room for the property. It was lifted into place by a 20 tonne crane and sits on six steel brackets installed into the roof space.

Dave Shaw, Director of East Midlands Housing, led the project dubbed Project Cottesmore, after the road on which the house is located. He said:

“I was very nervous about the LoftPOD going in; as it’s the first time we have been involved in something like this and, of course, the properties either side are inhabited which adds to the complications! We started with the idea of installing a small pod inside the existing roof space – and then ***someone said ‘why don’t we just replace the entire roof?’; so that’s what EnviroHomes did!***”

“The main benefit of this approach is the high levels on insulation you can achieve by building something in factory conditions. But there are other pay-offs too. For example, even though we were pushed for time, ***we fully fitted out the LoftPOD and even decorated, carpeted and furnished it before it was installed!*** “

Simon Astill from EnviroHomes explains how they got involved in the project:

“East Midlands Housing approached us to build the LoftPOD because of our expertise in low energy off-site buildings that can be delivered



complete to site. When they explained their vision for project Cottesmore, they were dubious that the project could be achieved. However they trusted our experience in this area and let us do what we are good at!”

Tarif Javid, Refurbishment Manager for East Midlands Housing continues
“EnviroHomes were given a very short time scale of less than four weeks, to deliver a design solution and to manufacture and install the LoftPOD.”

Within a few days of being commissioned they were able to measure up on site and provide initial drawings and structural calculations. They demonstrated that the LoftPOD structure could be achieved within brief and the parameters that were set out. Once the design was structurally verified, the go ahead was given. Within a week the main structure was assembled at the EnviroHomes facility and inspected by the team.

The installation date was confirmed and was well within the four week window given to EnviroHomes. They made all the arrangements including haulage and the crane for the lift. The LoftPOD was successfully installed as planned without any glitches. ***The LoftPOD fitted better than a bespoke Savile Row suit!***

East Midlands Housing has relished the opportunity to work with EnviroHomes and was greatly impressed with their ability to offer their expertise in the design and delivery of the LoftPOD. They have come up with a real retrofit solution that can be replicated on nearly any property on a larger scale anywhere in the country.”

For more information on EnviroHomes Ltd please contact – Karen Mitchell on 01228 5757080 or karen.mitchell@envirohomes.co.uk

More information on EnviroHomes can be found at www.loft-pod.co.uk or www.envirohomes.co.uk



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