



## HUF HAUS launches in Ireland

Family owned German firm offers unique energy efficient homes

### Benefits of HUF designed Sligo Nursing Home outlined

DUBLIN Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 - HUF HAUS, the renowned family owned German firm and the European market leader in contemporary post-and-beam architecture, has launched its full range of building services in Ireland. The launch at the Irish Architectural Archive was attended by company president Georg Huf and the Minister for the Environment, John Gormley, T.D.

HUF HAUS will offer its complete range of new green[r]evolution buildings – an innovative generation of houses marking a new era in energy efficient building methods. The company has a very positive reputation for its exceptional commitment to quality and timely delivery of its post-and-beam designed buildings to the exact specifications and pricing agreed with its clients.

HUF HAUS currently has several projects in prospect in counties from Cork to Sligo where the company built an exceptional new style of nursing home, Nazareth House in Sligo Town. A partnership between the Sisters of Nazareth and the HSE, the 55,000 sq. ft. nursing home is one of the first health buildings in Ireland to use geothermal heating.

Established in 1912, HUF HAUS builds just over 150 of its unique designs each year ranging from average to larger sized homes, terraced town houses, multi-storey offices and public buildings such as fire stations. The company manages the entire design and build process including interiors, furnishings and landscaping. It has annual revenues of €100 million.

The HUF HAUS green[r]evolution range of houses and buildings support and encourage environmental sustainability. They are exceptional in terms of their very high quality and energy saving capacity. They specifically meet stringent new energy saving regulations in Germany which requires a 60 per cent reduction in energy requirements for all new homes by 2012. They also meet and exceed EU and Irish mandatory minimum standards of energy efficiency for all new homes, including heating systems that reduce waste through excessive heating, yielding overall highly beneficial Building Energy Ratings.

Georg Huf, President of HUF HAUS said, “Ireland is very focused on the combined issues of energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. Europe is also moving to a position where all EU Member States must endorse national plans and targets in order to promote the uptake of very low and close to zero energy buildings. In low energy buildings, as much as 80% of the operational costs can be saved through integrated design solutions. Our green[r]evolution home is our major contribution to environmental and climate protection. These new buildings reflect the consistent devotion of our architects to nature – visually and technologically.”

“At HUF HAUS we are passionate about excellence, design and innovation. Our homes and buildings are designed to the highest standards to ensure the minimal environmental impact and the most cost effective way of heating and lighting an attractive environment to live and work for the future. We invest every single building we create with the very highest values of traditional craftsmanship and with the most modern concepts and developments in design. Every one of our buildings is designed to last for generations.

“HUF HAUS offers a greener and a smarter way of designing, building and delivering in a cost effective way the private homes and the public buildings of the future, and that is what we believe we can contribute in Ireland. We hope that our green[r]evolution concept will offer new opportunities to people who are looking to build an energy efficient home for their own benefit and the more widespread benefit of society in terms of environmental sustainability.”

Also speaking at the launch, John Hanley, project manager for Nazareth House Nursing Home in Sligo said, “We wanted an innovative design that was bright and uplifting and would assist in convalescence. We were keen for it to be environmentally friendly with low running costs, where care units are usually warmer and require more energy than most buildings. We have created an exceptional, light filled and comfortable home for the elderly where the quality of life and living provided in this modern new building has clearly contributed to better health, lower rates of illness and enhanced longevity for residents.”

HUF HAUS has appointed an Irish representative in Dublin, Maggie Moran, who will help customers to plan and design their new homes. Moran commented, “With HUF HAUS, new home builders have the opportunity to choose an architecturally advanced building with built-in energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. This is combined with the reassurance of timely delivery and high quality construction to the exact specifications required.”

### **Groundbreaking efficiency in post-and-beam construction**

The revolutionary innovation in HUF HAUS's post-and-beam construction lies in the fact that all constructive timber parts have been provided with a high efficiency insulation layer, eliminating the usual thermal bridges<sup>1</sup>. Additionally, the insulation of exterior walls has been significantly improved and the use of materials in construction has been optimised in order to achieve maximum thermal protection.

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1 Thermal bridges are areas in buildings where heat can be transported more quickly to the environment than in other parts of that building

As part of the energy efficient standard specification of each green[r]evolution HUF house, all glass panels are made of quality-controlled triple-glazed panes with a U-factor of only 0.11 BTU/(h•ft<sup>2</sup>•°F). This is accompanied by the most advanced building services utilising heat pumps and self regulating measurement and control technology. On request, HUF HAUS can provide individual solutions for regenerative energy systems, including controlled ventilation with heat recovery, solar-thermal and photovoltaic systems.

### **HUF HAUS architecture remains without compromise**

The green[r]evolution house marks a further step forward in design where each part of the finished building has either a constructive, protective or structural function. In combination with innovative energy systems, this has led to a unique level of energy efficiency for glass and timber houses. However, the unmistakably clear lines of the classic HUF HAUS have been retained without compromise.

Moran commented “The impending launch of HUF HAUS in Ireland will provide a compelling opportunity for new home builders to choose an architecturally advanced building with built-in energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. Just as important is the reassurance of timely delivery and high quality construction to the exact specifications required.

### **Details of Nazareth House, Sligo**

In 2004, Nazareth House Management Limited, which includes representatives from the Sisters of Nazareth and the HSE North West Region, commissioned HUF HAUS to build a 55,000 sq. ft . care unit for elderly people in Sligo. HUF commenced construction in September 2005 and the overall project was completed in 14 months

The Nursing Home, which provides high dependency nursing care, consists of three buildings. The central building is three storeys (as it has a basement) and this building is the social centre with a restaurant, chapel, communal living spaces. The two other buildings are the residential areas. The building uses 3 x 40Kw Geothermal Heat pumps and is all under floor heated.

The shell build cost was approximately €10million and the building has a 10 year warranty. The contract also included for the first overall painting of the exterior of the building typically when the building is 4-5 years old.

**Ends**

## **About HUF HAUS**

HUF HAUS is the market leader for contemporary post-and-beam architecture in Europe. The company produces about 150 houses a year, (single family homes as well as commercial buildings), of which about 40% are exported worldwide, even to China. The company has annual turnover of €100 million. The name HUF HAUS represents the dedication and aspiration of a family, which has been operating and shaping the business for nearly 100 years, now currently in the third generation.

In the seventies, HUF HAUS architecture significantly redefined post-and-beam construction, using a reduced design language, large glass areas and open-plan floor layouts. The timeless glass and timber construction, with its clear lines, are still unmistakable features of all HUF houses, which have been constantly refined through the years. With the introduction of the new green[r]evolution product line, HUF HAUS is setting an exciting landmark in post-and-beam construction.