



PROJECT ■ Designed for manufacture

With the government calling for a £60,000 house, architects Project Orange have developed a design using factory-made timber panels.

Last month John Prescott launched a competition to stimulate fresh thinking about housing design. Run by English Partnerships on behalf of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Design for Manufacture competition is intended to demonstrate that a good-quality home can be built for a construction cost of £60,000. While no particular constructional system is specified, the use of modern methods of construction is clearly envisaged.

In responding to this challenge, we felt a logical starting point was the terrace, writes *Project Orange*. This has the potential both on clear sites and on the same footprint as existing but dilapidated stock.

With shared party walls and recognisable two-up/two-down format, the four by eight metre modern timber terrace cottage is efficient to build. Contractor Eurban has developed a very simple and efficient form of construction. The walls for the house arrive in one piece, pre-drilled for services. The timber finish negates a need for further decoration, while the double-glazed front and back facades ensure high levels of insulation.

From the street the house is very open. A small balcony to the first floor forms a porch to the front door, which opens into a living room with full-height glazing to the street. The kitchen-diner is a square room with cooking facilities on one wall and storage on the other, with space for a dining table in front of the window and a back door opening onto the garden.

The main living room stair leads to a small landing with full-height storage. The main bedroom has full-height glazing and a high-level storage shelf plus wardrobe space. The compact bathroom is top-lit (at night you can see the stars). The second room could be a study, dressing room or single bedroom. Omitting the floor here would create a double-height space in the living room below with the option to return the floor at a later date.

