

Can a car park also be a place to live?

Well, yes, I think it can says Bill Dunster



Bill Dunster is principal of ZEDfactory
Photos ©Roger Hunt



Here's a thought... Many of Britain's ground level car parks are filled with cars during the day: at stations, schools and colleges, shopping centres, healthcare facilities

But they're empty at night.

Meanwhile, many commuters using the trains, students from the colleges, workers serving us in the shops or treating us in the healthcare sector are struggling to find affordable homes.

Can a car park also be a place to live? Well, yes, I think it can.

Our revolutionary ZEDPod system delivers low cost, factory built, quality homes on stilts that stand over the bays of ground-level parking. During the day, commuters, shoppers and hospital visitors park just as they always have, but underneath the homes? with the added advantage of the bays now being covered. But at night, as the car parks empty, key workers and students return home to our highly space-efficient and eco-friendly homes - bringing life to otherwise deserted car park assets. The homes are free standing, self-sufficient in energy thanks to built-in PV and battery storage. Shared, covered outdoor areas provide further living and socialising space; there is even room for allotment gardens. (See CGIs of a typical scheme on our website www.zedpods.com)

A full scale ZEDPod has been set up over a parking bay at the building science centre, BRE in Watford. You are invited to be amongst the first to

experience this new home at one of our three open house events.

Come along to discover how you as a facility owner or manager can increase your rental income and maximise the return from your parking investment. Bring along scale drawings and we can even overlay example ZEDPod community schemes and give you indications of potential rental income.

Free parking! An event is being held to discuss this idea on 7th February, 10.00 - 12.30 Please RSVP to ana.paun@bre.co.uk if you'd like to come.



Bill Dunster Prior to setting up ZEDfactory in 1999, Bill worked at Michael Hopkins and Partners, for 15 years, on projects specialising in low energy and sustainable developments, including the Jubilee Campus at Nottingham University, and Portcullis House in Parliament Square. Zedfactory aims to demonstrate that a step change reduction in carbon footprint is achievable at the same time as an increase in overall quality of life, and completed the first carbon neutral mixed used scheme, BedZED in 2002 using these principals.

ZEDfactory has experience working on both a range of architectural projects varying in size from large scale masterplanning to small residential refurbishments and works in China and Brazil, as well as the UK. This particular emphasis on the holistic integration of zero carbon thinking into the place-making and transportation agenda called 'ZEDlife' has recently been fed into the Zero Bills Home demonstration house at the BRE