



## News

# Xtratherm opens new training & exhibition space

Leading insulation manufacturer Xtratherm has opened its brand new state-of-the-art training centre and exhibition space at its manufacturing base in Navan, Co Meath.

The Xi Interactive Exhibition Space and Training Academy is a permanent educational resource designed to demonstrate best practice solutions — for new build housing, commercial envelope solutions and refurbishment projects — using common building techniques.

The centre also has a separate CPD theatre catering for up to 70 people, where company representatives and other industry experts can share their experience and expertise with architects, engineers and installers.

Xtratherm's director of marketing and technical services, Danny Kearney, told Passive House Plus that the opening of the exhibition space and training academy was just one part of the company's commitment to upskilling the Irish construction industry.

"We started this with our own staff, by taking the unique step of guiding each one of our technical team through BBA accreditation to calculate U-values and condensation risk," he said. Xtratherm has also achieved accreditation under the NSAI Thermal Modelling scheme, he added.



Danny said that the industry's big challenge now is to close the gap between designed and real-life energy performance. "This is where collaboration and education is key to achieving the goal of low energy design. Education needs to involve not just students but also designers, site operatives and manufacturers alike."

"It is imperative that all new and existing participants in house building and construction generally be trained with the necessary knowledge to understand and reduce the performance gap. Critically, this is particularly applicable to those actually working on site."

He continued: "The building regulations contain the guidelines on how insulation is installed and airtightness is achieved in the form of the Acceptable Details for Construction (ACDs)."

"The ACDs might not be exhaustive, but they cover the majority of junctions that experience heat loss — it is up to industry as a whole to expand on them."

He said that Xtratherm and other manufacturers, together with bodies such as the RIA and Homebond, are now working on expanding the ACD offering and will be demonstrating such details at the Xi Centre in Navan.

Anyone interested in visiting the Xi Interactive Exhibition Space and Training Academy can contact Xtratherm at [info@xtratherm.ie](mailto:info@xtratherm.ie).

(Above) Xi Interactive Exhibition Space and Training Academy, set up to educate the industry about how to detail and apply best practice in low energy building.