

**KEVIN MCCLOUD EMBRACES THE GREEN SIDE OF GRAND DESIGNS LIVE**

Grand Designs guru Kevin McCloud opened Grand Designs Live this morning with a ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by an exciting conversation on the Green Living Live Sustainable Future Theatre, Powered by OVO to listen to 'Kevin McCloud Meets The Green Grads', with GREEN GRADS founder Barbara Chandler. Kevin and Barbara, alongside several of this year's 24 GREEN GRADS, discussed their eco-inspired projects and products and the inspiration behind them; these innovative new products range from upcycled furniture from waste to sustainable biomaterials to a heated blanket that runs off a solar panel, and beyond.

Later, Kevin welcomed Richard Bacon MP back to the Grand Designs Magazine Theatre for 'The Future Is Custom Build', a conversation that explored how we can drive changes within the self-commissioned market to include more large scale, multi-home, sites coming onto the market than ever before. This engaging panel discussion also included Angie Doran of Homes England, Mario Wolf, Director of planning and strategic engagement at Custom-Build Homes, and Mark Stevenon of NaCSBA. During the discussion Mr Bacon said *'Although we've made progress in terms of access to serviced plots for custom and self build homes, there is still more*

to do. My next target is to make sure the housing fund gets reopened because that is a great way to help a large number of people on their way [to building their own home].’ He also acknowledged that the process for finding a self-build or custom plot is still difficult and encouraged visitors to ‘register interest in a custom or self-build plot with your council, the power is with the people on this, more demands will mean a better result.’

Kevin McCloud said of the show said ‘Here at Grand Designs Live we have NGOs, industry leaders, experts, politicians, architects, hundreds of great exhibitors and award-winning graduate designers with brilliant ideas for a sustainable future. It is one big melting pot of human energy and it’s wonderful to see connections being made that might lead to opportunities for collaboration and discovery; the show’s been very busy today - it’s an exciting vibe!’.



Kevin McCloud also showcased **Kevin’s Green Heroes**; these exciting brands and products have been handpicked by Kevin McCloud, to showcase the finest, revolutionary sustainable innovations. Talking about his chosen designs Kevin said; ‘These products are at the forefront of innovation. This is newly available and super-sustainable stuff for people who care.’ These products include GULP, the sustainable, long-lasting washing machine filter that captures microplastics from every laundry cycle, to Eneris Collective’s modular furniture created from industrial waste wood, to Kenoteq’s UK-manufactured, low carbon, circular building materials for interior or exterior. Visitors can view Kevin’s Green Heroes until Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

The show itself is packed with hundreds of carefully curated brands, offering visitors the chance to discover current trends, and explore the latest technologies and designs across the five main sectors of the show: **Build, Kitchens, Bathrooms, Gardens and Interiors**. Exhibitors

at Grand Designs Live also reported an exciting opening day; Duncan Wietscher Sales Director for Polysolar Technologies said *'We could not be more delighted; this is one of the most positive starts to a show we've done so far!'*

Director of Grand Designs Live, Richard Morey said *'Today we've been thrilled with the response from visitors, speakers and exhibitors; with 8 more days to go, we're excited to keep the positivity going!'*

Grand Designs Live and Green Living Live are at London's ExCel until Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Tickets are still available from [www.granddesignslive.com](http://www.granddesignslive.com) and [www.greenlivinglive.com](http://www.greenlivinglive.com).

**For more information, imagery and press queries please contact Genevieve Daetwyler**  
**([Genevieved@GoodResults.co.uk](mailto:Genevieved@GoodResults.co.uk))**

**T: 02033975180**