

# Floating homes remain buoyant says developer

WHILE many property companies are only just keeping their heads above water, niche developer Floating Concepts is bucking the trend making two new top level appointments to strengthen its team.

American architect Jonathan Baker, 40, joins the board to oversee design and to develop and expand the company's design concepts which include its floating homes, hotels, offices and student house-boats.

Jonathan cut his teeth on designing floating structures in Denmark and is now one of the world's elite group of 'aquatects' - architects who have not only designed floating structures, but have seen them built, floated and occupied.

He said: "I am looking forward to applying the wealth of experience I have amassed in designing residential floating communities in Denmark to the UK." So far he has 19 projects under his belt.

He added: "I see enormous opportunities both for the regeneration of the UK's many redundant docks and harbours as well as bringing forward imaginative, but realistic solutions to the flood threat arising from climate change."

Jane Wilby-Palmer, 28, who has a law degree and a legal and commercial property background, will head administration with particular responsibility for legal matters.

A passionate advocate for eco-living, Jane said: "The appointment is an exciting opportunity to be involved with a company with an environmental conscience producing low-impact, sustainable floating structures, as well as pioneering innovative solutions to deal with the



ON the crest of a wave: A Floating Concepts development

consequences of climate change."

Chief executive, David Beard is upbeat about his venture despite the downturn in the economy.

"The recession has been a fantastic opportunity for us to take up the lead position in a new emerging market," said David.

"Blue-field sites - once a hitherto unrecognised, national resource, are as valid a development medium as their brown and green-field sites."

"Jonathan will bring a global perspective to the company's activities while Jane will co-ordinate all aspects of the business."

"These latest appointments will take our management resources up to the next level when I expect to recapitalise the company to achieve the sort of explosive growth that will guarantee market dominance from a recovery onwards."

David has more than 30 years

experience in property development in the UK and was part of the syndicate of investors involved in the early regeneration of Liverpool South Docks in the 1980s.

He now owns the 350 berth Liverpool Marina and his last land based project was the £60 million Citygate complex in Manchester.

For further information regarding Floating Concepts, please go to [www.floatingconcepts.co.uk](http://www.floatingconcepts.co.uk).

## Council scores three stars for care quality

CHESHIRE East Council adult support service has been awarded a three-star rating by the Care Quality Commission.

The Wilmslow 'Supported Living Network' is a supported living service and provides help for adults with learning disabilities. Services it provides helps tenants live as independently as possible in their own homes in the Wilmslow, Handforth and Alderley Edge area.

It offers housing-related support according to the specific needs of an individual providing help with everyday tasks in the home, as well as help with shopping, budgeting and social and leisure opportunities.

Council portfolio holder for adult services, Councillor Roland Domleo, said: "It is really satisfying to know that the Care Quality Commission believes that the people who use this service experience quality outcomes and that they consider we promote dignity, focus on diverse needs and take an innovative approach to care practices.

"It is vital that people have the opportunity to live as independently as they can and that they make the decisions that affect their day-to-day lives."

## Call for action on 'phoenix' companies

The Forum for Private Business (FPB) wants a probe into corporate insolvencies to address the problem of 'phoenix' companies starting again under a different name and leaving their smaller creditors unpaid.

The organisation backed the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) which launched an investigation into the corporate insolvency market amid concerns that the cost of entering administration is too high compared to other countries.

In addition to investigating the high cost of closing a business and UK creditors' general rates of recovery, the FPB believes that the inquiry must also focus specifically on phoenix companies and directors who abuse the process.

"When a business drops out of the market, banks and the government take their cut but what about the small business which has supplied that company and has never been paid?" asked Matt Goodman.