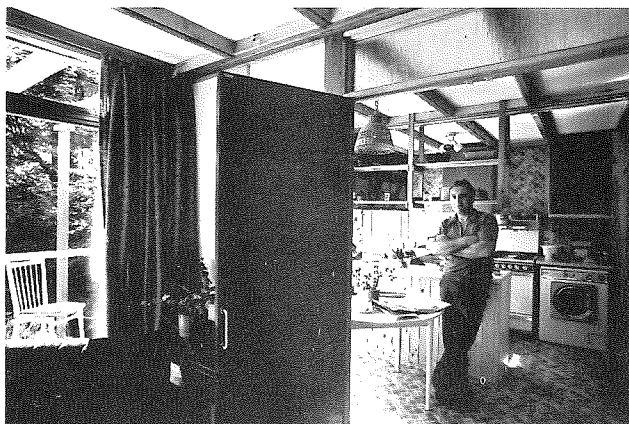


Recent Comments By Self-Builders



"Nobody will ever be able to tell me that I cannot do something – anything ever again."



"When you build yourself a house like that, and understand what a house really is, and how anybody can do it, you get re-educated. You don't need to move or trade up. You've got your own house exactly the way you want it, and you understand exactly how it went together."

Awards to the Walter Segal Self Build Trust



1987 – Community Enterprise Award
presented by HRH Prince Charles



1987 – Building & Social Housing Foundation Award
presented by the Secretary General of the United Nations
in New York.

WALTER SEGAL SELF BUILD TRUST

The Trust is a non-profit making charity. To do its work, it requires support. To this end we offer the opportunity to be registered as a member of the Trust to whom we will circulate information and send 2 newsletters per year.

MEMBERSHIP

- Individual £10.00 Funded organisation £15.00
 Unwaged individual/unfunded group £5.00

The Trust also has available:

'You Build - A Guide to Building Your Own Home' £16.00 incl. p&p plus a year's free membership.
'The House That Mum & Dad Built' 30 minute video for sale £40.00 incl. p&p.
For rent £40.00 (£30.00 deposit refunded on return of video)
Architect's Journal Special Issue on the Segal Method £2.00

Please make cheques payable to the Walter Segal Self Build Trust.

Name _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

For further information, please send a s.a.e.

Walter Segal Self Build Trust,

Room 212, Panther House,
38, Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AP
Telephone: 071 833 4152



ANYONE CAN BUILD THEMSELVES A HOME



Are you aware of the possibilities?

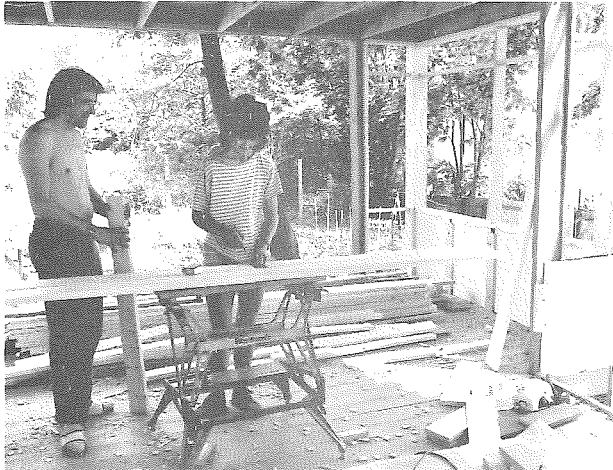
- Did you know that in 1986 over 11,000 people built their own homes?
- For some it was the only way they could afford a home of their own.
 - For others it meant a larger, better house for their money.
 - Many people derived great satisfaction from working alongside others or from creating something with their own hands.
 - All put themselves in the best position to get a house designed for their particular needs and desires.

What are the obstacles?

Although self-builders build more houses altogether than Britain's largest building company, they do face special problems. The scarcity of building land in many areas and tough competition from developers and institutions make it difficult to buy suitable plots at reasonable prices. Nevertheless, with proper advice and real determination, all these obstacles can be overcome.

Who can build their own house?

Generally speaking, the number of people who have been able to build their own houses has been limited because the use of conventional building methods usually means that half the group are required to be trained building tradesmen. Self-builders have needed to have a secure income and often some capital as well. There has also been an assumption that you needed to be a fit, young man to build a house successfully.



These assumptions have been challenged and overcome by two self-build groups in Lewisham in South East London. New building methods have been successfully developed which mean that a much wider range of people can undertake the task. It has been demonstrated that women, elderly people, young people without capital or access to loan facilities, the unemployed, the less well-off and those with no building experience – all can now become self-builders.

Walter Segal Self Build Trust

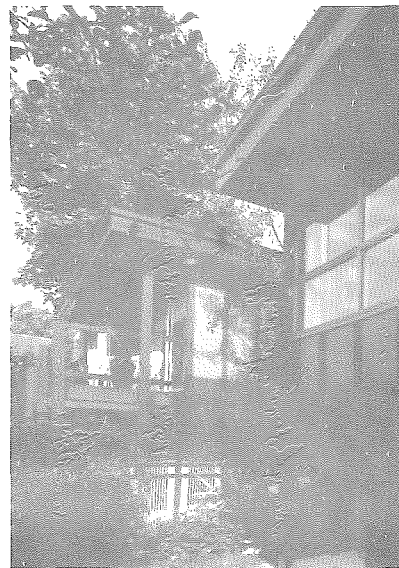
We are a charitable trust, named after the architect who pioneered a highly practical method of construction in the mid 1960s which is particularly appropriate for self-builders. Our experience leads us to believe that many more people would build for themselves if they knew more about these methods and were aware of what is possible.

The Segal Method

The Segal Method is based on a post-and-beam timber frame into which readily available materials such as plasterboard are fixed. Simple 'dry' joints can be made with bolts and screws. This method has many advantages:



- It can be mastered quickly by anyone without building experience.
- It is economical and little work needs to be done by sub-contractors.
- Because the buildings are raised above the ground on posts, the foundations can be reduced to a minimum and it is not necessary to level the site in the usual way. It becomes possible to develop difficult sites with steep slopes or poor ground economically.



- Unlike conventionally organised self-build groups, each household can build their house at hours that suit them.

- One or two storey homes of almost any layout can be constructed, and because the walls are non-loadbearing the layout can be even be changed as work progresses.
- Extensions can easily be added at a later date.
- The method relies on simple but comprehensive information to build from. This includes layout plans, diagrams of the structure, details showing how the parts are joined together, a detailed list of all the materials required and step-by-step instructions. This information has to be provided by an architect familiar with the Segal method who will charge a fee.

Free advice and information

At the Walter Segal Trust we advise people who wish to build their own home. We also advise local authorities, housing associations and other institutions which may not be aware of the potential of self-build, but who are in the position to promote such schemes. This advice covers such matters as how to establish a scheme, the costs involved and the financial options available. As well as the Segal Method, we can also advise on other self-build methods where these are more appropriate.



From time to time we organise seminars and practical training courses and we can supply a 30 minute video and a travelling exhibition. There is a demonstration 'low energy' house built in the 'Segal' manner which is available for viewing at the National Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynelleth in Wales.

