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Family's house development lays foundation for new build business

Construction company set-up follows successful completion of £1.6million eco-home

by Jonathan Matfin
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A BERKHAMSTED couple, who cut their construction industry teeth by creating a new family home, are now building a solid reputation with their very own firm.

Anthony and Julie Hayes built a six-bedroom house in Potten End with the help of an architect and a crack team of construction workers.

And after moving into their finished home, the couple, who also have two sons, Joshua, six, and Max, one, decided to develop their own building company, Frithsden Construction Ltd.

Anthony, 46, said: "We'd always had a desire to build our own house and we wanted to create a close team with local tradesmen.

"This was the benchmark - if this went well, we'd go ahead in the business."

Anthony and Julie first established their own construction firm in 2005 after four years of buying and refurbishing properties to sell.

In early 2006 the couple bought a house with land, off private road Frithsden Copse, and in May the same year - while Julie was pregnant with Max - they started their ambitious self-build.

Julie, 33, said: "There was so much pressure and to do it on budget, it was unbelievable."

With architect Peter Knightley and head builder Perry Daniels on board, Anthony and Julie made rapid progress with the project and moved into their new house in May 2007.

The old property on the same land - home to the Hayes family during construction - was demolished in one weekend.

Julie said: "This house wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the three parties - architect, builder and Anthony and Julie - working closely together."

Now happy at home in their own house, heated by an eco-friendly bio-mass boiler for about £700 a year, the couple are working to develop their construction company.

The business got a boost this winter when the couple's



HOUSEPROUD: above, Julie Hayes outside her property in Potten End (07-1234-2252). Above: rear elevation of the house (07-1234-2235).

self-built house, a project which cost about £1.6million in total, picked up regional prizes for best new home and best energy efficient build at the Federation of Master Builders Builder of the Year awards 2007.

With a company ethos of quality and courtesy, the couple hope to make the

most of the New Year with major projects set to include the construction of two new houses in Felken with an estimated sale price of more than £1.6million each.

For more information on Frithsden Construction Ltd, which is based in Lower Kings Road, Berkhamsted, call 01442 866221.