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The key to the design of five-bedroom Weald House near Tunbridge Wells, Kent was the owners' desire to build a healthy family home. Architect Robert Lumme at timber-frame eco-specialist Baufritz (01223 235 632; baufritz.com/uk) created a home that blends harmoniously with its surroundings through the use of building materials – mainly pale render and larch cladding – that will weather naturally. The house is carbon-positive – it locks away 50 tons more CO₂ than is released during manufacture and construction, including emissions from transportation and the running of the house for the first five to 10 years. The 37cm-thick complete-solution walls are constructed almost entirely of timber, while the patented scrap wood shavings insulation and triple-glazed aluminium timber-clad windows give the house excellent thermal insulation. Solar panels on the roof power the heating system. Baufritz homes cost from £500,000. »

