



P.A.P.I Silfiac - Raphaëlle

Jeff ...Can you tell me what P.A.P.I. is?

Raphaëlle PAPI stands for Pôle d'Accueil de Proximité Intergénérationnel : Local Intergenerational Social Centre. It's a municipal set-up which brings together several local organisations, with a shared accommodation section for older people, a centre offering help young mothers, a hall used for events, and an area for different sporting and leisure activities. It has been set up to satisfy the needs of the whole population of the commune of Silfiac.

Jeff And where did the idea come from?

Raphaëlle It came from the local council, in response to several gaps in provision in the community. To start with, a lack of facilities for older people. This structure enables them to end their days, if I can express it that way, near to their homes and their former lives. There was also a lack of provision for young children, and this gives parents an opportunity for alternative child care. There's also a place for all sorts of different groups, be they cultural or sporting associations, and as the numbers of these groups has grown in our community, so it has become necessary to provide a place where they can exercise their activities.

Jeff And how did you get the money?

Raphaëlle We have different financial partners to enable us to pay for this project. It's been greatly subsidised. We have been given grants, by the CAF (Caisse d'Assistance Familiale), by ADEME (Agence de l'Environnement et le Maîtrise de l'Energie) for the aspects that have an environmental impact. We have grants from Pontivy Community, from the department, the region and central government. A relatively diverse group of backers!

Jeff And who built it?

Raphaëlle We asked the architects Menguy from Vannes, who are people we've already worked with, on our eco-estate. It meant they were already familiar with the commune, and could produce something

in keeping with what's already in place here. The site was managed by

Bretagne Sud Habitat, who are in fact the owners of the building which houses the old people.

Jeff How long did it take to build?

Raphaëlle If I'm not mistaken, it's taken about 2 years, so it's been a bit longer than planned! I forgot to mention earlier the businesses that were also involved in the construction; we tried wherever possible to use local companies, and we also used people who were in a re-training programme in Pontivy, for the installation of the straw bales in the Salle Triskell, as that building has straw insulation.

Jeff out And would you say that the project has succeeded in what it set to do?

Raphaëlle shared I would say that as things stand, we are pretty satisfied. The accommodation is working well, and there is a demand for places. The Salle Triskell is also in demand, by the associations, the school as well as the local population. The offices of the childcare providers are still empty. The building work is finished, but at the moment, no-one is using it. We are waiting to take on some childcare workers to start everything up. But we're relatively pleased with the result.

Jeff How does PAPI fit in with the other sustainable projects in Silfiac?

Raphaëlle To begin with, when it comes to the position of PAPI, we chose the site as a link between the older buildings in the centre of Silfiac, and

the eco-estate, which is more recent. It's a special estate, with ecological buildings constructed with a specific design. So PAPI is there as a link between these two parts of the village, I would say. It's also a link between the different shops, the school, all the different aspects of the commune; a central place for all members

of the commune to meet. As for sustainable development, it fits in well with the ethos of the commune, as we have worked hard on the inter-generational perspective on a social level. The choice of building materials has also been considered; I spoke earlier of the Salle Triskell which has been built of straw bales. But the other building, with the shared housing, has also been built using environmentally-friendly materials, wood-framed and with cellulose insulation in the roof. The heating system is shared between the buildings, the heat generated by a single wood-burner. And we have photo-voltaic panels on the roof of the Salle Triskell, which produces electricity and hot water in the accommodation area. We re-use the rain water also; plenty of things designed to fit in with the sustainable development ideas of the commune, ideas which we have adhered to for some time now.

Jeff

Raphaëlle, you're obviously ...

