



From the Editor

The January issue of Concrete Today has a particular emphasis on housing and features a synopsis of two major independent studies (commissioned by the ICF) into the implications for masonry construction of the implementation of TGD part L of the Building Regulations dealing with thermal insulation. The new regulations take effect in January 2003.

Traditional masonry construction methods are the predominant form of house construction in Ireland. However, concrete by its very nature lends itself to innovation. In this edition we are pleased to report on the highly innovative use of precast concrete in the 'Cherry Orchard Housing Project'.

'Cedar Wood is innovative from the point of view of its design and the construction methods employed. For the precast company the 'new cross wall panel products' are essentially a 'product line extension'. The technical developments to the panel are a result of an investigation into the experience of other European precast manufacturers and the gradual development of the expertise of the precaster in cross-wall and panel design on a number of projects in recent years. The result is a highly durable, cost effective housing system based on fully tried and tested methods of construction. Precast housing has the potential to give new scope to designers and has a role to play in resolving Ireland's current housing shortage.

*Brian Ó'Murchú
Marketing & Technical Manager, ICF.*