

2 Plan Lighting

It perhaps goes without saying, but a well-lit driveway and entrance will make driving or walking up to your home on late nights or winter evenings a more pleasant (and secure) experience. Whether you opt for solar lamps, which are extremely cost-effective to buy and easily installed (a good retrofit solution), or plan to include built-in LEDs within the hard landscaping, it's a good idea to give some thought to your outdoor lighting scheme and how to illuminate your entrance before first fix work gets underway.



3 Your Entrance Can Make a Statement

The entrance door or porch is a key architectural feature — whether it's understated or overstated, it's an opportunity to make a statement. This self-build features a curved stone-clad front elevation — the dramatic Japanese-style porch serves to puncture and break up the fort-like façade.

4 Accessibility is Required for New Homes

Building Regulations require new homes to be accessible for wheelchair users. The Regs state that an accessible approach is required from the point of access to the principal entrance. Where a ramp or conventional stepped approach is used, a landing must be provided in order to comfortably turn a wheelchair.

With a level access, however, comes the risk of water ingress and so in order to ensure water run-off, you will need to introduce a slope of between 1:60 and 1:40 away from the threshold. This project from Transform Architects was designed with accessibility in mind for the homeowners' disabled daughter. A gently sloping driveway up to the entrance allows easy access. ➤

