

THE GLAMPING POD

CRAFTSMAN BARNABY DEARSLY makes modern homewares from natural materials he finds at the water's edge near his home on the south Devon coast. His most ambitious project to date was created from the ultimate bit of marine debris: a 13ft-high 'boat pod', fashioned from the bow of a decommissioned wooden fishing trawler.

The pod takes advantage of the boat's chunky oak ribs and curved larch planking, built to withstand Atlantic swells. Dearsly covered the exterior in fibreglass to make it water-

tight, and repainted the boat's waterline and Penzance port number on the side. In the cosy living space, a bespoke wood-burning stove was welded from parts of the original engine and an old mast; and the aluminium-trimmed circular doorway is fitted with a porthole-style door.

'The chance to work with such large pieces of material and give the boat a new lease of life was incredible,' says Dearsly, who envisaged the pod as a children's den, an artist's studio or a writing room. 'She now provides a

wonderful space to relax in, a hideaway protected from the elements.'

The boat, which has been fitted with electricity, Wi-Fi and running water, is in use as a glamping pod at Hammonds Eau Farm in Cambridgeshire (visit [boatshack.co.uk](http://boatshack.co.uk) for details), offering an idyllic countryside retreat.

*Barnaby Dearsly: [weatheredbywater.com](http://weatheredbywater.com)*

The bow section of an old fishing trawler was refashioned by Barnaby Dearsly into this distinctive outdoor room in the Cambridgeshire Fens



**TIP** A garden room doesn't have to resemble a conventional shed - an unusual structure such as this boat pod will add character to a space.

COST TO BUILD  
**£15,000**

# SUPER SHEDS

Squeezed for space indoors? A quirky garden room or mini annexe will help you spread out. Natalie Millar-Partridge rounds up some stylish examples

THE EXTRA BEDROOM



**TIP** ‘Speak to your neighbours and explain what you intend to do,’ says Max de Rosee. ‘Try to address their concerns if possible. We kept our roof pitch very low, as the people next door were worried about how it would look and whether it would block their sunshine. It is better that your neighbours should be forewarned and not surprised.’

**TIP** A well-built garden room can add five per cent to the value of your home.

COST TO BUILD  
**£55,000**



FOR ARCHITECTS Max de Rosee and Claire Sa, a self-contained garden room was a way of providing much-needed extra living space at their west London home. ‘We have five children, so we needed another bedroom for an au pair,’ says de Rosee.

Their upmarket annexe includes a bed, a kitchen and a bathroom. The couple wanted the exterior to relate visually to the main house, which is Victorian, so they used London stock bricks for the walls. They chose zinc for the roof. ‘The material was important, as

the roof is overlooked from the house,’ explains de Rosee. Although the exterior is traditional, the interior details are more contemporary, with panelled walls painted a strong, deep blue. Eventually, the building will become a home office when the children no longer need a nanny. [deroseesa.com](http://deroseesa.com)

**This page** Max de Rosee and Claire Sa chose London stock brick so their garden room would link visually with their Victorian house.

**Opposite** Rodrigo Moreno Masey used reclaimed wood to differentiate his shed

THE DO-ANYTHING ROOM

WHEN ARCHITECT Rodrigo Moreno Masey decided to build a shed in the garden of his Victorian terrace house in London, he considered the limitations of the traditional shed, and how to make an adaptable construction. The result is a flexible, multifunctional room that the whole family can use. ‘It’s

not an extension of our house or a remote retreat,’ he says. ‘It’s a separate space where a number of activities can take place.’

Moreno Masey chose reclaimed aged-oak boards as cladding, to differentiate the building from the house. The main space has been fitted with

electricity, furnished and lined with shelving, while a door to the side leads to a separate storage area for assorted garden paraphernalia.

‘It works as a study, a gym, a TV room, a playroom and a library,’ says Moreno Masey of his ultra-modern luxury shed. [morenomasey.com](http://morenomasey.com)

COST TO BUILD  
**£30,000**

**TIP** ‘Take the time to design something you will enjoy looking at from the house, as well as spending time in,’ says Rodrigo Moreno Masey. ‘My shed sits square to the house and frames the outside space visually.’



**TIP** ‘Assuming your house is not listed, what you can do without planning permission is fairly generous,’ says Moreno Masey. ‘Depending on how far your shed is from your neighbour, the maximum height ranges from 2.5m to 4m [8-13ft] at the ridge. Typically, you can build over 50 per cent of the garden if you want to. The planning portal [[planningportal.gov.uk](http://planningportal.gov.uk)] provides detailed guidance, but if in doubt ask a professional!’

**TIP** ‘Try to keep the space as flexible as possible, so that it can be adapted during different seasons and phases of life,’ advises Moreno Masey. ‘Also, make sure it is big enough to give you a sense of escape so that you can truly enjoy your time in it.’



### THE CHIC SHEPHERD'S HUT

PAUL BENNETT FOUNDED Red Sky Shepherd's Huts in 2015, with the aim of offering a luxurious yet practical garden room that would add character to an outside space. 'They look beautiful, but also they're so versatile, and generally don't need planning permission,' he says. 'And you can take them with you if you move.'

Each hut is handmade to order and designed to last generations. Exteriors can be either wood, painted wood or painted corrugated metal, and the interiors come in any Farrow & Ball colour.

'The most common use is for an office or spare bedroom,' says Bennett. 'They also make great summerhouses, with the addition of a wood burner creating a cosy winter retreat.'

The company was propelled into the spotlight in 2017 when David Cameron bought a hut in which to write his as-yet-unpublished memoir. 'Since then, we've made huts for all sorts of uses,' says Bennett. 'There's been a therapy room, a hairdressing salon, a counselling room, a swimming-pool changing room, an art studio and a hut specifically for weaving baskets.'

If you choose a shepherd's hut, consider having fun with the decor. This hut (left and right) built by Lisa and Toby Smallpeice, founders of the skincare brand Amly, in the garden of their Sussex home, was decorated by the textile designer Molly Mahon, complete with printed wallpapers and fabrics. [redskyshepherdshuts.co.uk](http://redskyshepherdshuts.co.uk)

**Left and right** Lisa and Toby Smallpeice's hut, decorated by Molly Mahon ([mollymahon.com](http://mollymahon.com)).  
**Far right** A Red Sky shepherd's hut ([redskyshepherdshuts.co.uk](http://redskyshepherdshuts.co.uk))



SARAH WEALS, CLAIRE WILLIAMS

COST TO BUILD  
**£20,000**

