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10 WAYS

To create garden rooms and havens

*Alison Mellis has made the most of her elegant garden room (p82).
Emma J Page shares ideas for chic outdoor retreats, from contemporary office pods to treetop escapes*



This rustic garden studio features a pitched roof and an 'up-and-over' sliding door designed by architects MorenoMasey.

1 GO BESPOKE

For a truly unique garden escape, commission an architect. Future-proof your investment at the planning stage by taking time to consider all its possible uses: from work to socialising. Well-placed heating and power sources will ensure year-round use and maximum flexibility. This smart, shed-style cabin is clad in reclaimed English oak and features an up-and-over door for a seamless connection between indoors and out.



Joanna Wood has made a graceful dining area against two exterior walls.

2 INSIDE OUT

Take inspiration from the Mediterranean and create a seasonal, al fresco dining room by making use of the side return typical of many terraced houses. Train vines along tension wires, or something more substantial such as a pergola, to offer protection from the elements. If you have enough room, include an outdoor kitchen area. This space, created by interior designer Joanna Wood, makes clever use of pre-existing architectural details, which form the basis of a cooking and serving area. The sturdy stone dining table complements the rustic walls that surround it.

Four of the best garden room accessories

Create a stylish fresh-air space with these antique pieces



CHECK MATE

A soft blanket will keep out the chill as evening draws in. Vintage Welsh blanket, £129, Jane Beck Welsh Blankets.



LIGHT FANTASTIC

With original paint finish, this storm lantern will add a decorative touch. Vintage storm lamp, £25, Scaramanga.



POTTED HISTORY

Use galvanised zinc washtubs as informal planters. Twentieth-century planter, £75 each, Mayfly Vintage at The Hoarde.



TRUG LIFE

Pretty and practical, a flat-based trug has uses beyond gardening. Antique rustic French trug, £30, Mabel & Rose.

Yam Yam Bruce Thomas



Imperfect Interiors' Beth Dadsell created this dramatic structure that echoes the building's industrial past.

3 IN THE FRAME

A sleek, glazed extension is a neat solution to situations where it's important to maintain the architectural integrity of the original building. Glazed walls allow both old and new structures to be read separately. In this period home, which was once a dairy, the simple metal framed and glazed extension is a nod to its industrial past, and the original roof trusses are retained as a striking feature within the courtyard garden.

Rachael Smith

5



For storage that is useful and attractive, the National Garden Scheme shed from The Posh Shed Company ticks all the boxes, from £2,877.

4 BACK TO NATURE

The ubiquitous shed is back in the spotlight having undergone a subtle makeover in recent years. The most coveted versions combine ample storage for garden accessories with room to relax and enjoy nature. For timeless appeal, choose a natural timber design with a generous veranda on which to sit.



Bespoke conservatory, from £48,000, Alitex.

5 CLASSIC TOUCH

Garden rooms are increasing in popularity and, for traditionalists, a conservatory is the perfect choice. Differing from orangeries, which feature less glass, the latest technology minimises heat loss during the winter months, while also managing heat gain in the summer.



Treehouses and garden retreats, from £12,000, Squirrel Design.

6 FAMILY FRIENDLY

A treehouse can be a haven for adults and children alike. This whimsical design is built in oak to complement the tree it is wrapped around. Left untreated, the shingles will take on the sheen of weathered wood, almost becoming part of the tree itself.



Glasshouse, from £15,900, Griffin Glasshouses.

7 GLASS ACT

A simple glasshouse or greenhouse is a great addition to any garden. When building a freestanding structure, run the longest axis from east to west for maximum efficiency. If you have room, set up a table and chairs so you can relax after a day spent gardening.

Martin Urmsen



The Glide Pod from Pod Space, features a sliding louvre screen, frameless windows and Siberian larch doors – from £39,540.

8 SLEEK & SERENE

When planning a garden retreat, think about how it will sit in the landscape. This sleek, contemporary design with its simple contours and frameless windows suits the pared-back space it occupies. Sliding doors keep the look streamlined and unfussy, while maximising light and accessibility, and subtle grey cladding completes the look. An ideal additional living/work space, a structure like this can be built off site and installed as a complete unit, or constructed on site in around 10 days.



9 THE GREAT ESCAPE

For the ultimate retreat, consider an elliptical, organic pod. This imaginative design, with its futuristic form but highly natural finish, would make an ideal sanctuary for working, meditating, sleeping or socialising. Made from birch plywood and clad in cedar shingles, the Escape Pod will blend into any garden setting while also making a dramatic statement. Install underfloor heating or a cosy woodburner for year-round use.

The Escape Pod starts at £23,760 from Podmakers.



Rolling Cabins, from £15,995 for a 13ft x 7ft structure, Houtt Cabin Co.

Create an inspiring work space

Rodrigo Moreno Masey, founder of architectural firm MorenoMasey, shares his tips

There is something quite special about a garden studio: its sense of 'otherness' gives it the ability to inspire creativity. Try to be inventive when it comes to your design. Although off-the-peg solutions are widely available, if you are careful with costs, it should be possible to achieve something bespoke, perfectly suited to your needs, and this will be more satisfying in

the long term. Engage with your local council and neighbours to see what's possible. Remember to hardwire reliable internet and integrate heating and lighting at the build stage. Consider adding plumbing to give you the option to use the room as independent sleeping quarters in the future. Paying attention to the interior design details will also help with

multi-functionality and future-proofing, so the space can adapt as your needs change: underfloor heating can be linked to your smartphone for easy temperature control, making your studio a cosy, year-round space, while painting a wall in a flat, pale grey means movies can be projected onto it for movie nights, so your work space is an entertainment area, too.

10 CABIN FEVER

Taking inspiration from simple Suffolk fishing huts and Scandinavian summer cabins, Houtt Cabin Co has given the traditional, wheeled shepherd's hut a sleek modern makeover. Each Rolling Cabin comes heated and wired as standard, making them ideal for use as either a garden-based office or a rustic-feeling spare room when friends come to stay. Optional extras include built-in desks, bunks, tables, kitchens and bathrooms – making them literally a home away from home, even if it is just at the bottom of the garden. Clad in Douglas fir or cedar, which are both naturally weather resistant, the exterior can be left untreated. However, a black stain finish is a smart and stylish alternative.