



Home offices and garden rooms come in an inspired range of shapes and sizes. **Anji Connell** presents some eye-catching examples

With a growing trend towards working from home, a bespoke outdoor office or garden room is an inspired and contemporary option for the professional home worker.

There are plenty of options available, and many suppliers offer a complete all-in-one solution at affordable prices. They are definitely a stylish alternative to the box bedroom or shed and allow you to continue to keep your home and work life separate.

It's unlikely that you will need planning permission or building control approval, unless you live in conservation areas, areas of outstanding natural beauty, or a site where there is a listed building.

Super-insulated office pods will keep you warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Because you don't have to heat the whole house, this provides an energy, cost-efficient solution. Insulation will also cut down on any external noise providing a tranquil space to work from.

Consider your view and pick a spot that will inspire you, an outside deck might be something you can add alongside verdurous planting to de-stress and inspire you.

The studios require a sufficient foundation for the building to sit on, either a standard concrete slab or a concrete plinth system that is more economical, eco-friendly and a less obtrusive option, acting as supporting feet below the base of the timber structure displacing the weight into the ground through the concrete plinths. The



The Blob



Coodo

BE AN OUTSIDER AT WORK

advantage of this system allows for less excavation, and they can be laid quickly and efficiently onto uneven ground, without any levelling required. Plus, if you need the studio to be moved, the plinths can be reused.

The Blob is a smooth egg-shaped work pod that houses a bathroom, kitchen, an optional bed and has integral shelving and electrics. The nose opens automatically and doubles as an outdoor deck. The Blob is constructed with an inner and outer skin of polyester, the internal space left is injected with polyurethane foam. A design concept at this stage, but its pleasing organic shape is food for thought.

Dwelle's Little Dwelle is a mere 152 sq ft and the Big Dwelle, 253 sq ft, however, they each have enough room for a living area, a kitchen and a bed.

Both are fitted with renewable energy so they can operate off-grid, and are fully insulated with cellulose fibre extracted from 100% recycled



Dwelle

newspaper. The pods are heated by electric underfloor heating, have double glazed windows to boost thermal performance, and all fittings and finishes are designed with health and safety in mind and in improving air quality. Both can be externally clad in pretty much any material from timber to rubber, with the option of being fully planted with foliage.

Lofts to Go is devoted to designing contemporary preformed units to suit a modern eco-friendly lifestyle. Designed with passive house principles for energy efficiency the Coodo units come in many options with full height triple-glazed windows, and high-tech insulation wrapped around a rounded steel-frame that ensures they are light-filled and able to take advantage of any views. They have a secure environment with an outdoor shaded deck built



Shoffice



James Law Cybertecture

from recycled planking.

Indoor air is kept clean and dust free with inbuilt micro-filtered ventilation and an air moisture system. Electrical devices are connected to a smart wireless network so that they can be controlled remotely via a smartphone.

Coodo is perfect for urban rooftops, remote landscapes and beaches and even on water – the Watercoodo model floats leak free. Available in sizes from 36–96 sq m, they are delivered as a shell, with a basic interior, or fully equipped, transported by flatbed truck and craned into place.

OfficePOD was designed to eliminate distractions so expect decent soundproofing and sleek interior design. The pod can be hooked up to a battery system or the electrical grid itself for lighting and climate control.



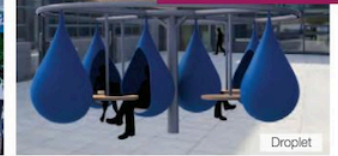
Town & Concrete inflatable pod



Officepod



Archipod



Droplet

Bold glass inclusions like the office studio by Neil Dusheiko bring contemporary to simple wooden structures. The cedar planks that clad the building were charred using the traditional Japanese technique known as Shou Sugi Ban, which makes them resistant to rot and fire.

Sky Pod by George Nijland have a small louvre system that is light filled with a full glass frontage and a generous skylight in the middle of the pod's ceiling. Louvres provide some shade.

The Australian company Harwyn's offer state of the art sleek Office Pods with a minimal design and a reflective finish that blends into its surroundings.

London-based furniture maker Nathalie de Leval designed a shed for the fashion designer Paul Smith. Not only is the quality of the finish amazing, but the prefab shelter has been made with FSC American hardwood, and it can rotate

to follow the sun's path. Its ability to rotate provides a means of chasing the sunlight throughout the day, and also allows for a change of view.

Pod Space's outdoor pods can be permanently situated outside. Options for the Outdoor Pod include front and rear double-glazed enclosures, solar panels with battery storage for mobile phone/laptop charging facilities, with LED lights and Bluetooth speakers. The pods have a 5-year structural parts guarantee.

French artist Cyril Lancelin founder of Town and Concrete uses classical shapes and volumetric spaces to create unique and immersive installations and structures, that engage the public and force the viewer to question their own relationship toward their built environment. The structures can be made weatherproof and add theatre in any setting.

Droplet Outdoor Communal Workspace designed by Nick Chubb is a fun and functional free-hanging station. It incorporates six pods which slide around an inner or outer ring to create a framework that allows people to share the space in many unique and different arrangements, allowing people to work individually or collectively.

Each pod features a screw-thread system to allow the user to adjust its height while the unique droplet form creates a compelling aesthetic for any open space.

There is nothing quite like working in a peaceful green garden within a few feet of your own home. Modern outdoor home office pods allow that separation to be as convenient and painless as possible and how can you get more inspiring than being part of nature itself?

ABOUT ANJI CONNELL

Internationally recognised interior architect and landscape designer Anji Connell is a detail-obsessed Inchbald Graduate, and has been collaborating with artisans and craftsmen to create bespoke and unique interiors for a discerning clientele since 1986. Anji is a stylist, feature writer and lover of all things art and design.

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