



The garden commute

History is reinvented as the WWII Nissen Hut lives again as a garden office

As companies try to minimise their office space, many people are starting to work from home, and the statistics of home workers in the UK are on the rise. People like the idea of waking up on a Monday and not having to rush to catch the seven o'clock train. They enjoy being able to relax for longer over a leisurely breakfast and a nice cup of tea in the company of family before work begins. Not to mention getting a head start in the office to their commuting colleagues. They can feel satisfied knowing that the house will be empty for the rest of the day and they will be able to work in blissful peace until at least 3pm and the kids return home from school.

From saving money and time on a commute, being flexible with hours, or enjoying the luxury of a nice cuppa surrounded by home comforts, there are many reasons why people are opting for this virtual work place and the realm of the internet has made that possible.

While the traditional study within the house is still used by some, often people don't have this option and the kitchen table is taken over by paper work. Therefore, many people wish to separate their home from work by building an outbuilding

in the garden. Not only does this solve the issue of work documents covering the house, it also creates a physical and psychological separation between home and work.

Garden studios are increasing in popularity as people improve rather than move. These studio spaces come in a variety of shapes and sizes and the competition is expanding as those requiring one not only want practicality but aesthetics too, making George Nissen's Nissen Hut design highly competitive in today's market.



BELOW (LEFT TO RIGHT): Major Peter Norman Nissen's original Nissen Hut design

Nissen Pod, by Nissen Hut
Photo: David Hughes Photography



COTSWOLD HOMES

SPACE TO WORK, REST AND PLAY

The Cotswolds has plenty of suppliers of alternative garden office/studio spaces. Here are just a few.

Cotswolds Shepherds Hut, Kettle Road, Stroud, GL6 8LN, tel: 01453 883515.

Future Rooms, Unit 56A, Staunton Court, GL9 3GS, tel: 08448 002093 or 01452 504555.

Cotswold Stone Craft, tel: 07977 026 832 or 0142 221742.

Garden Buildings Centre, Crickentoe, GL7 6EU, tel: 01285 644760.

Not only do these huts provide a means of separating work and home life while still having the luxurious tranquillity of being at home, they can be adapted for your working needs. Nissen Huts are retro, eco friendly and easy to build ticking all of the boxes both practically and aesthetically. A garden office also adds value to your property if marketed properly highlighting its uses and benefits.

The history of the Nissen Hut isn't only being reinvented as a garden office in the present day, artist Rachel Whiteread has been commissioned to produce a piece of work based on the original hut from World War I. Whiteread's sculpture will stand in Yorkshire's Dalby Forest to mark the centenary of Forest Commission from autumn 2018.

In 1917 there was a problem housing troops on the western front. Major Nissen, an engineer and inventor had joined the British Army when he looked at the problem and invented the Nissen Hut made of corrugated iron. The original Nissen huts took a few hours to put up, needed no special foundations, and were the perfect size for the job.

One hundred years later the great grandson of Major Nissen has brought back the Nissen Hut for different use. While it takes the best components

in the UK and that statistic is expected to rise to half of the working population by 2020. Already in the Cotswolds alone over 20% work remotely, which creates a huge need for a secure, warm and functioning place in which to do so.

George launched his Nissen Hut (pod) at the Grand Designs show in London back in May 2018 which prompted a great deal of interest and a special commendation from the show.

Nissen Hut Ltd has thought of everything to make this space the best it can be for 21st-century working life. There are minor factors such as sandwiching ionised sheeps' wool insulation, a chemical-free method of moth proofing, between the plywood panels and the wooden frame to provide good internet and phone signal... as well as the major selling elements like the speed at which the huts can be built from natural materials.

The British-made product with a heritage design has many benefits. In just three days you can have a fully erected Nissen Hut in your garden with no concrete required because it is built using a 'pin and plate' footing system. You can also forget planning permission because it's not required in most cases as it comes within permitted development rights. The best bit? All of this is included in the price. ♦