

HOUSES ✦ GARDENS ✦ FOOD ✦ LIFESTYLE

COUNTRY HOMES

& INTERIORS

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Q Can you use any garden building to work from home?

A 'An ordinary shed or summerhouse will be too cold in winter and, just as important, too hot in summer,' says Nick Hopewell-Smith (above left), Chairman, Henley Garden Buildings. 'You either need to buy a dedicated home office building that is already very well insulated, or buy a standard garden building and ask a builder to fit double-glazing and a serious amount of insulation as an extra.' For more details, call 0870 240 7490, henleyoffices.com.



A sedum roof is an eco-friendly option.

The next trend: Sedum roofs

Do your bit for the environment by choosing a green roof instead of a standard one. A green roof is usually made of sedum planted over a waterproof membrane. It's a haven for wildlife, can reduce CO2 emissions, offers heat and sound insulation, is perfect for windy areas where tiles might blow off, and is frost-hardy and drought-resistant.

The only maintenance a green roof needs is a quick water after a prolonged dry spell and slow-release fertiliser each spring. For green roofs, try Garden Affairs, 01225 774566, gardenaffairs.co.uk.



MAKE A DATE...

Head to the RHS Flower Show Tatton Park near Knutsford, Cheshire from 20th to 24th July to see designs from Garden Exteriors, Hartley Botanic and MPB Garden Buildings plus gazebos by Crown Pavilions (left), Breeze House and Ornate Garden. Call 0844 338 7505, rhs.org.uk.

Edward gazebo, from £6,959 including seating, Crown Pavilions, 01491 612820, crownpavilions.com.

♥ Eco buildings

You won't need to meet Building Regulations for most timber-framed buildings, but if you want to heat the space for use in chilly months, you'll use less energy if you go for one that complies with Part L of current policy, which covers conservation of fuel and power. Designs by Oeco Garden Rooms, 01765 607365, oeco gardenrooms.co.uk, meet these regulations.

For further advice...

Antique Buildings 01483 200477, antiquebuildings.com.

Breeze House 01538 398488, breezeshouse.co.uk.

Buffalo Timber Buildings 01491 838368, buffalo-timber-buildings.co.uk.

Courtyard Designs 01568 760540, courtyarddesigns.co.uk.

English Heritage Buildings 01424 838643, ehbp.com.

Garden Exteriors 01827 705215, gardenlodgeuk.co.uk.

Garden Lodges 0800 043 4821, gardenlodges.co.uk.

Hartley Botanic 01457 819155, hartley-botanic.co.uk.

MPB Garden Buildings 01299 266000,

themalverncollection.co.uk.

Orlestone Oak 01233 732179, orlestoneoak.co.uk.

Ornate Garden 01675 464705, ornategarden.com.

Roundwood of Mayfield 0800 328 3847, roundwoodconstruction.com.

Taylor's Garden Buildings 01508 481622,

taylorsgardenbuildings.co.uk.

The Brookwood Barn Company 0844 800 4202, oakbarns.com.

Townsend Tradition 01903 745559, townsendtradition.co.uk.

Vale Garden Houses 01476 564433, valegardenhouses.com.

BUY IT NOW!

Brightly coloured cushions will make your retreat even cosier!

Eclectic tie-on chair cushions, £19.99 each, The Contemporary Home, 0845 130 8229, tch.net.

