

Summer 2008

# PRIVATE BANKING

Zara Phillips  
*on what her  
summer holds*

Sir John  
Mortimer  
*reflects on  
what's left*

Jenny Eclair  
*offers her  
Edinburgh  
Festival tips*

## The Mandela magic

*Marking his 90th birthday  
with an exclusive essay*

*By Peter Hain*

Vicki Butler-  
Henderson  
*motors through  
Europe*

Don McKinnon  
*on Britishness*

*Plus*  
Art, yachts &  
summer homes

 RBS  
PRIVATE BANKING



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”

“Only one of our clients so far has coloured the outside of their garden building,” says Fotheringham. “Our clients seem to like the larch cladding on the outside, because it just fades into the background.”

Her customers do tend to get carried away with the spec, however. “We normally have to gently reduce the size that people think they want – we would like them to end up with a building they’ll use, not one they’ll rattle around in.”

“All of our buildings are bespoke by the time clients add extra features; we rarely build to the basic price list. Our most expensive garden building was the one for a client who wanted it to house his full-size snooker table – that came in at around £85,000, and the design also incorporated a garage and a shed. Usually, though, they are in the region of £40,000 with a shower room, and £30,000 without.”

Where you’re talking more than a refurbished tool shed or a timber hut, Fotheringham is confident that most home-owners will at least get back the money they spend on a garden building – especially in the South East of England, where domestic space is at a premium. Add insulation and a bathroom, and you’ll enjoy the kind of added value associated with creating an extra

Rooms (well, almost) with a view: Designer Andy Sturgeon created this black-framed pavilion in oak, left, inspired by modern Japanese architecture, for the Cancer Research UK Garden at last year's Chelsea Flower Show. Below: Chris Nangle's red-cedar Outpost garden pod is priced £7,350 – waterproof screens included



bedroom or an extension. Other practicalities to consider are getting the location right, choosing the aspect and deciding whether to insulate or not. You need to site your garden building at least five metres away from your house; any closer and it will be classed as an extension, and you will need to seek planning permission.

Lynn Fotheringham recommends a west-facing site where possible, but suggests brightening north- or east-facing buildings with Velux roof-lights. Andy Sturgeon always avoids a south-facing aspect and advises small windows at the back or sides to allow good air circulation. He also suggests shading any glass with trees and plants; much more pleasing than a set of faded curtains.

Insulation will allow you to enjoy the room all year round – a huge bonus for any garden-lover – and there are other ways of 'greening' it, too: "Solar panels will only work when installed at the correct angle, though," advises Andy Sturgeon. And that can be tricky on more modern designs with flat roofs. "You can always add a water butt to recycle rainwater," he continues. "A green roof [one that has been grassed] can also help if you need to apply for planning permission – particularly in urban areas – because it will greatly improve the view for you and your neighbours."

## House selection

### Garden buildings come in many guises

#### Log cabins & lodges

##### Finnforest

0845 602 4773

finnforest.co.uk

Numerous Scandinavian log-cabin styles in sustainable softwood, from £1,200

##### Garden Lodges

0800 043 4821

gardenlodges.co.uk

Modern garden lodges in timber and glass, from £13,000

##### InsideOut Buildings

01524 737999

iobuild.co.uk

Bespoke timber buildings, hand-built from eco-friendly materials, from £23,000

#### Summerhouses & retreats

##### HSP Garden Buildings

01638 583814

hspgardenbuildings.com

Gorgeous classical outdoor rooms in a palette of mellow colours, from £8,200

##### Norton Garden Structures

01243 607690

nortongardenstructures.co.uk

Many shapes and styles of hand-built timber summerhouses, from £10,000

##### Scotts of Thrapston

01832 732366

scottsofthrapston.co.uk

Beautiful vintage-style summerhouses and National Trust 'retreats', from £3,700

#### Modern spaces

##### Forest

0870 191 9801

forestgarden.co.uk

Good value LifeSpace range, from £3,000, and the funky Arc, £7,000

##### The Garden Escape

0870 242 7024

thegardenescape.co.uk

Super-cool timber-and-glass buildings, from £18,000

#### Chris Nangle

01691 611864

chrisnanglefurniture.co.uk

Outpost eco 'Pod', hand-built in western red cedar, from £7,350, including installation

#### Treehouses

##### Cock-a-Hoop

01798 869919

gdtimberdesigns.co.uk

/cockahoop

Hand-built timber treehouses, from £7,000, and 'cabins on stilts', from £2,000

##### Squirrel Design

01666 840703

squirreldesign.co.uk

Imaginative treehouses, plus bespoke cabins and hideaways, from £4,500

##### The Treehouse Company

01536 443988

treehousecompany.com

Treehouse-style buildings, for gardens with or without large trees, from £7,000

#### Rooms on wheels

##### Cotswold Shepherds Huts

01453 883515

cotswoldshepherdshuts.co.uk

Huts, untouched, restored or new, from £4,000

##### Lavenders Blue

01536 373803

lavenders-blue.com

Hand-crafted playhouse gypsy caravans, from £3,500

#### Garden designer

##### Andy Sturgeon

01273 553336

andysturgeon.com

RHS Gold Medal Chelsea Flower Show winner