

## The rise and rise of the garden shed



It doesn't matter whether your taste is for a sleek contemporary space (above) or something more cluttered (facing page)

## COME INTO MY SHED

It can be an office, an extra bedroom, a music room—or whatever you fancy. DAMIAN BARR, a proud sheddy, explains the options available for the outside room

ONCE upon a time, the average garden shed housed a lazy lawnmower, some rusting garden tools and a family of spiders. Not so now. The once-humble shed is now a much grander affair: an outdoor room of one's own.

'Sheds are a huge trend,' says Simon Milledge of The Buying Solution. 'I've seen them used as spare rooms, home

offices, music rooms, all sorts. They're a quiet place away from domestic distractions.' The shed is now more likely to be used for plotting novels than potting plants.

The cult of the shed began with Dylan Thomas, Charles Dickens and George Bernard Shaw. Visitors to Monk's House, the country retreat of the Woolfs in East Sussex, can look at the Lodge. Inside the weatherboard building is Virginia Woolf's

desk and the lamp she wrote by. Double doors open out across the downs and valley of the River Ouse. It's a wonder she got any work done. Roald Dahl often crept under his desk for a creative power nap. Contemporary sheddies—for that is how we are known—include Louis de Bernières, Jilly Cooper and Philip Pullman. Clearly, as a creative person, I had to have a shed. But how? 'Take expert advice before doing