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SHED HEAVEN

Down at the bottom of the garden lies the refuge of the modern man

Sheds have always been more than a place to store bikes and back issues of *Equite*. Nowadays, they are also serving the practical purpose of home office for those liberated from the traditional workplace. The problem is that most look like tacky Swiss chalets. Architect Tony Fisher had nearly given up on finding an off-the-peg solution for his home-based consultancy when he came across Ecospace, a studio range constructed from Scandinavian red cedar and topped with a "green roof" of sedums. "We liked the aesthetics and the way the company is set up," he says. "It's run by architects and built by architects, so there's a feeling that they really care about what they do." Despite teething problems ("wireless systems didn't work because of the heavy foliage"), Fisher says it's the perfect working environment ("the comfort of working at home but detached enough not to have distractions"). The only difficulty is clocking off: with a recording studio and a well-stocked minibar also in the space, the amount of time he spends here has become "a touchy subject" with his wife. "I'm thinking of creating a secret garden for myself behind the studio," he says, "but I haven't told her yet." The shed mentality, it seems, is hardwired into the male psyche. From £18,623 (020 7703 4004; www.ecospacestudios.com)

A room of his own: architect Tony Fisher's shed functions as both a home office and a home from home