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GRAND DESIGNS

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KEVIN
MCCLLOUD'S
10 Grand Designs
top projects

50 PAGES OF INSPIRING HOMES

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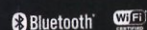
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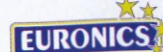
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PROJECTS | Grand guide

KEVIN McCLOUD'S TOP 10 TV HOUSES

Clean-cut and contemporary or intriguingly hand-crafted, these homes are the grandest of designs

1 SHIPPING CONTAINER HOUSE

Architect Patrick Bradley, from series 14, built this outstanding countryside home in County Derry for £130,000. Conventional build methods were too pricey, so he balanced upcycled shipping containers on top of each other, creating a 115sqm home with a cantilevered first-floor balcony and terrace to make the most of the scenery. The containers were fitted together off-site with a steel skeleton, then clad in a combination of Corten steel and metal mesh.

KEVIN'S VERDICT 'Engineering meets landscape beautifully – it's a building that lifts the spirits. This is proper architecture – a genius exercise in upcycling.' >



2 MODEST ECO HOME

After Indi and Rebecca Waterstone's Isle of Skye home featured in series 12, they were praised for its sustainability and simplicity. The couple saved £200,000 for the project, which had to include the land cost. Their uniquely shaped 90sqm, two-bedroom house has reinforced steel ribs and concrete foundations to combat Skye's tempestuous weather. Larch cladding, now silvered, and a turf-covered roof make it near-invisible when approached from the road. Glass doors, top grade double-glazed windows and extra thick layers of glass wool and tape keep the house well-insulated, minimising energy bills.

KEVIN'S VERDICT 'The exterior seems lifted out of the landscape; a boulder wrapped in bark and moss. It's one of my favourite houses ever.'



3 ARCH DESIGN

Heroic is a word rarely used in conjunction with British houses, but this is how Kevin described the £800,000 home that architect Richard Hawkes and his wife, Sophie, built in the Kent countryside in 2009, shown in series nine. Its unique ceramic timber arch roof was a precarious process involving 26,000 local handmade clay tiles, but miraculously it all came together. As a result of the heat recovery ventilation system, rainwater harvesting, PV-T panels, triple-glazed argon-filled windows, solar thermal panels and FSC cabinets, it is now a top performance Passivhaus build.

KEVIN'S VERDICT 'It is one of the greatest illusions of architecture, pulled off here with bravado. The house is full of surprises, joys and delight; creative but also risk-taking and groundbreaking.'

4 TIMBER-CLAD RETREAT

After three years of searching, David and Michelle Parsons found the ideal plot for their £250,000 home in woodland near Billericay, Essex. Architect David designed the house, in series 17, as a combination of intriguing intersecting black-timber clad boxes and a standalone box as Michelle's studio. For privacy, it has no windows at all on the north and east elevations – only two large industrial-style walls of glass at the rear and a series of rooflights. The double-height, light-filled living space entirely embraces the forested setting.

KEVIN'S VERDICT 'This home is a perfect fit for David and Michelle and addresses the tensions within architecture and ourselves.'



5 HEDGEHOG HOUSING CO-OP

Featured in the first series in 1999, the story of 10 families creating their own homes for £60,000 each was the ultimate in building democracy. The deal with this community self-build, funded by Brighton Borough Council and the (then) South London Family Housing Association, was that instead of cash every household contributed 30 hours of labour per week to the project. Based on a model by pioneering architect Walter Segal of homes that could be constructed by novices, the well-insulated timber-frame homes benefit from solar gain and sedum living roofs.

KEVIN'S VERDICT 'If *Grand Designs* represents anything, it's that a house isn't just a building; it's an ideal, a dream. These people united to put a roof over their heads, and built a community and future.'



6 BARN RAISING

Don't be fooled by the modern roof on Ben Coode-Adams and Freddie Robins' Essex barn conversion. Inside, the structure is 8.5m tall, with no plasterboard or paint to hide the skeleton. Featured in series 11 and completed for £800,000 – less than half the advised budget – the living/work space that had to house sculptor Ben's steelwork has a mesh roof to let in light, satisfying a planning restriction by concealing the glazing beneath. The couple poured heart and soul into the build, learning on site and using their artistry to handcraft a personal, if eccentric, interior.

KEVIN'S VERDICT 'Ben and Freddie weren't fazed by the project's scale, adding a grand triumph to their collective autobiography.' >