

SIMPLE CANVAS

Amelia chose pared-back wall coverings and flooring to allow her accessories to take centre stage. Weathered wood-effect plank tiles, Topps Tiles. Walls painted in Bottlefly Wings matt emulsion, Valspar. **Wood-burning stove**, Maryport Fireplace Centre. Tobias **mirror**, Maisons du Monde. **Armchairs**, Homesense and Lily & Co. **Sofa bed** DFS, re-covered by Di's Soft furnishings, which also made the chevron and brick cushions and cover for the Multiyork **footstool**, rescued from a skip by Amelia. Icelandic **sheepskin** and **throws**, Lily & Co, Rughouse and John Lewis. **Rug**, City Cow. **Cushions**, Homesense and Matalan. **Antlers**, car boot sale. Industrial-style **table lamp**, Homesense. Amelia bought the other **lamp bases** from John Lewis and made the **shades** using deer hide-effect wallpaper



Real Homes
CASE STUDY

A GARDEN ROOM FOR ALL SEASONS

Amelia and Murray Wilson have created a stylish, multipurpose space that's used all year round >

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THE OWNERS

Amelia Wilson, an interior designer, and husband Murray Wilson, a retired insurance claims manager, own the garden room. They have an American bulldog, Lexi, and some chickens

THE PROPERTY

A garden room in the grounds of a detached Georgian house, near Cockermouth, Cumbria

AMELIA LOVES

Raw materials

Walking

Rustic-Scandi style

Industrial accessories

Hosting parties at home

Weathered wood

TOTAL PROJECT COST

£20,000

PRIVATE BAR

Right Amelia and Murray love having pre-dinner drinks with friends at the **bar**, built by Curwen Joinery to Amelia's design.

Pendants, Nook, London. **Bar stools**, Debenhams.

Amelia bought the scaffolding plank **coffee table** from a London flea market and weathered it using black tea, lime wax and an oxidising solution.

The **side tables** are pine boxes bought online and painted the same colour as the walls. For similar, try Ebay

Anyone who has visited the Lake District will know that the weather in Cumbria can be somewhat unpredictable. So it is testament to Amelia and Murray's optimism that when they had their garden room built, they didn't include any heating. 'We didn't think it would get that cold in there because of the insulation and double glazing, but we were wrong,' laughs Amelia. A wood-burning stove was soon installed and the couple now have a space they can use throughout the year. 'In winter it's wonderful to come in here, light the log burner, curl up under the blankets and watch the weather and wildlife from the windows – the view changes every minute,' she adds.

The garden room is in the grounds of the Georgian property the couple bought as a holiday home in 2010, while still living and working in London. They permanently relocated here four years later. 'We were getting tired of London, and the house here was getting harder and harder to leave,' says Amelia. 'We've always loved the Lakes and walking in the fells, so living here full-time made perfect sense.' With its chocolate box looks and hidden nooks and crannies, the Georgian house had lots of potential, however, the previous owners had made a number of unsuccessful attempts to modernise, while the garden had been left to run wild. 'We had to start from scratch, restoring everything from floorboards to beams and staircases,' recalls Amelia.

With the house nearing completion, she and Murray turned their attention to the garden. 'We landscaped almost all of it but there was one corner where the soil was so boggy nothing would grow,' explains Amelia. 'We spend lots of time outside so I wanted to look for a summer house, and Murray has always wanted his own bar. We started to look for a garden room to combine the two.'

Amelia's criteria for her dream garden room was fairly simple – she wanted the largest structure she could build under permitted development rights, meaning she wouldn't need planning permission. Her search led her to Dunster House, which offered a five-metre by four-metre garden room suitable for the space available.

Combe & Sharpe Landscaping, who had worked on the rest of the garden, agreed to create the concrete base for ►



'I wanted the largest structure we could have under permitted development rights'





BEFORE

OVERGROWN GARDEN

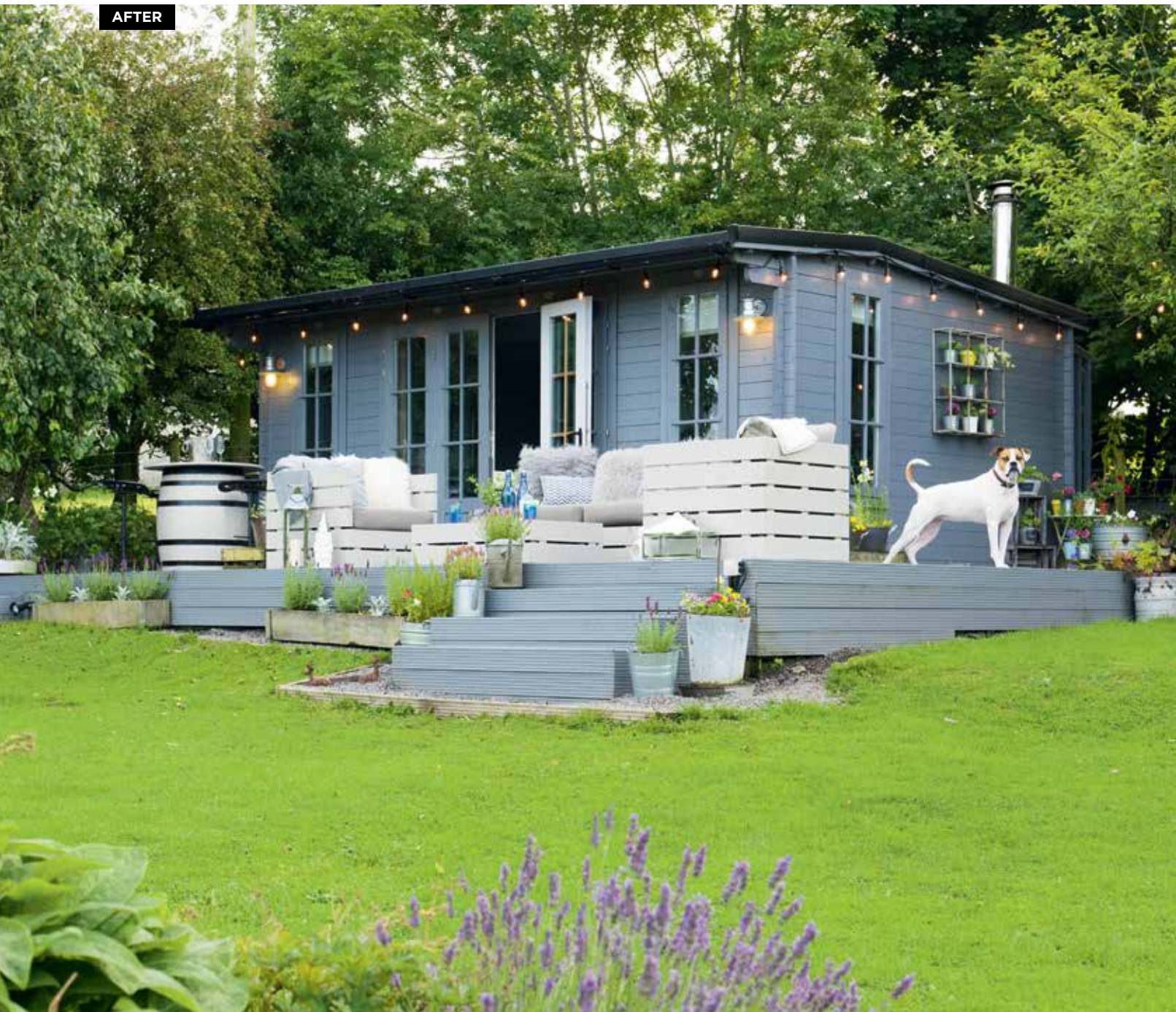
Left The outside space had an unkempt look. Amelia and Murray had it landscaped and a formerly boggy corner became the location for their garden room

CLASSIC EXTERIOR

Below The exterior wall lights are from Garden Trading, which also supplied the ladder-style shelves inside. Exterior and deck painted in Silver Birch, Cuprinol



AFTER





AMAZING VIEWS

Above Mountains and fells surround the couple's home and offer stunning views from the garden room

OUTDOOR COMFORT

Below The garden furniture is from B&Q and has been repainted in Cuprinol's Muted Clay



the pre-fabricated room to sit on, as well as decking to surround it. The garden room itself was tailored to the couple's requirements, with plenty of insulation and double-glazed windows. They also added electrics, and ample indoor and outdoor lighting points. Work began in April 2012, and was completed in time for a summer garden party. But as the nights started to draw in, Amelia and Murray realised they may have made a mistake by not including a heat source. 'We survived for the first year but then we decided to get a log burner installed,' says Amelia.

Amelia has continually updated the interior of the garden room since it was completed. 'I love industrial and rustic-Scandi style interiors but I felt this simply wouldn't work inside my Georgian house,' she explains. 'So the garden room has become the one place I can really include all of my favourite pieces and design influences.' And although it's perfect with the door thrown open in summer, thanks to the antlers, thick throws and wood burner, this garden room is used just as much during the winter.

To fulfil Murray's dream of having a bar, the couple asked carpenter Kevin Robinson, of Curwen Joinery, who they have worked with before, to build a bar to Amelia's design and then sourced beer pumps and taps online from a specialist retailer. 'I could sit here on my own all day listening to the wildlife and watching the mist coming and going,' says Amelia. 'But it's also a very sociable space because of the bar. If we have a dinner party then we often pop up here for a pre-dinner drink and nobody wants to go back to the house. When guests want to stay over we can just fold down the sofa bed.'

Over the last four years, Amelia and Murray have personalised the space inside and out. They replaced the roof with a more durable rubber system, and are planning to paint the exterior in a softer shade in the spring. 'When planning a garden room, think carefully about the costs involved,' advises Amelia. 'It might seem like you're paying less than £10,000 for a new room, but once you've added on the installation, decking, landscaping, decorating and furnishings, it can cost double that. For us, it has been worth every penny. It's my favourite "room" by far.' 🍷

THE COSTS AND CONTACTS

Installation, landscaping and decking
£8,000

Garden room
£6,000

Furniture
£1,800

Sofa covers and soft furnishings
£1,400

Log burner, including installation
£1,200

Flooring and fitting
£600

Lighting and electrician
£600

Accessories
£400

TOTAL
£20,000

Garden room Dunster House, 01234 272445, dunsterhouse.co.uk
Interior design Amelia Wilson Interiors, ameliawilsoninteriors.co.uk
Foundations and landscaping Combe & Sharpe Landscaping
Joinery Curwen Joinery