

# A small home with a big personality

THERE'S STYLE AND SUBSTANCE AT THE OUTBUILDING APPLIEDORE IN KENT, SAYS **POLLY HUMPHRIS**

**M**Y youngest is still at that age where a freshly painted wall is fair game for some Sharpies action.

So the joy I feel walking into The Outbuilding Appledore, a workshop turned handsome holiday home near the Sussex border in Kent, comes with an anxiety that it might be too glossy for a young family. My anxiety is short-lived, however. 'Ooh, a bubble machine,' shouts one of the small people. 'Mum! There's a hammock!' shouts the other, and with urgent footsteps across the decking, they're gone. Well, this is a good start, I think.

There's parquet flooring and bare brick, flashes of copper and gold, comfy sofas, and cool glassware stashed on shelves above the galley kitchen. It's most definitely a home and one with a big personality painted in a trendy Farrow & Ball palette.

Apart from the Far East-evoking tiled bathroom, all monochrome, grey

and jade-green, my favourite use of space is the hallway that leads there. It's essentially a very wide walkway with bunk beds built into the walls. A large skylight lets the light in and I can pull a blackout blind over it come bedtime. Clever stuff.

I pour myself a glass of wine and sink into the cast-iron bath, which I've scented with some relaxing bath oil - for all I know the kids are still happy in the hammock but it's good to be prepared.

**USP:** Owner and designer Amy Maynard is the most helpful host

I've met and the conversion sits in the grounds of her family home, which boasts a beautiful garden, a barbecue, a hammock, toys and a 40-year-old tortoise. The combination of something new and stylish with the inquisitiveness of small children is something to strike fear into the heart of a parent but this place is a family-sized chill pill.



**Charm:** Outbuilding is in a former workshop



**Chic:** The stylish interior shows great attention to detail while bunk beds built in to the wall are a neat touch RICHARD GADSBY

**Who goes there?** Young families, dog walkers wanting to explore the nearby Royal Military Canal, weekenders with money to burn in nearby Rye's pricey cobbled streets and anyone who might be after a brief digital detox. The mobile phone reception is poor but if the addiction hits, there is wi-fi.

**Venture out:** The Black Lion pub at the end of the road is great for a drink in the sun but locals in the know head to Rye for brunch at Whitehouse (mains from £8.50, whitehousesrye.co.uk) or eat pimped pub classics at The Standard Inn (mains from £11.95, thestandardinnrye.co.uk). If you need to entertain the kids, Port Lympne

Hotel and Reserve, a 600-acre sanctuary for rare and endangered animals including black rhinos and giraffes, is half an hour away by car (family ticket £72, aspinallfoundation.org/port-lympne).

From £140 per night, [theoutbuildingappledore.com](http://theoutbuildingappledore.com)