

'I turned my garage into a snug retreat'

Judith Moody transformed this former storage space into a comfortable garden room, which is filled with things she loves and doubles as guest accommodation



Love
JUDITH'S
STYLE?

Turn to page 143
to shop the look



Welcome to my home

Judith Moody, a retired heritage garden designer, lives here.

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom detached house in East Sussex, built in 2009.

WHAT IT COST

Wood cladding.....	£1,000
Doors.....	£1,600
Decorative doors.....	£1,200
Porthole window.....	£120
Flooring.....	£1,200
Pendant light.....	£75
Ladder.....	£150
Loo.....	£99
En suite fittings.....	£1,704
TOTAL.....	£7,148

“I love my garden and the views are great from the garage. It's the best room in the house!”

Judith put in bifold doors and lined the walls with white wood cladding. 'It's really opened up the space,' she says. 'This is a lovely place to sit and relax.'

Antique French barn doors, £1,200, Heirloom Home. For a similar rug, try Lohals, from £20, Ikea. Zinc ceiling pendant light, £75, Ardingly Antiques & Collectors Fair

STORAGE TRUNK
Doubles as a coffee table and bedding store

HOW JUDITH DID IT

'When my former husband and I built the house in 2009, we included a double garage, steps from the back door and linked by a tiled porch. It was a good size, but we only ever parked on the driveway, so this became a storage space. Local builders insulated it, laid floors, fitted the cladding and bifolds. They also connected the plumbing and installed the shower room. I also added a mezzanine sleeping platform. I needed

planning permission, as I live in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The work took a couple of months and cost around £7,000. Once the shell was done, my daughter Victoria, who is an interior designer (Heirloom Home), helped me find special things for it from Ardingly and Kempton antiques markets. Now it's finished, I love being able to sit here and enjoy the view of the whole garden.'

BELOW The garage was already clad in oak boards, which had silvered over time. Judith decorated the gravel courtyard with pots of herbs and terracotta olive oil urns. 'They are really old and I like their oversized look,' she says.

Frame painted in Pigeon exterior wood and metal eggshell, £67 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. For similar urns, try Heirloom Home

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN, VANESSA RICHMOND
PHOTOGRAPHS AND STYLING ALISTAIR NICHOLLS



WALL LIGHT
For a warm, atmospheric glow on summer nights



ABOVE 'I already had some furniture from the house to put in here, and I loved trawling antiques fairs for one-off old pieces.'

Flump chair, £805, Loaf, is a match. Babar trunk, £349, Swoon, is a similar style. Try Live Laugh Love mirror, £45, Amazon

RIGHT A mezzanine sleeping platform, made from scaffolding and metal pipes and accessed by a ladder, has created extra space.

Wiltshire dresser, £799, The Cotswold Company, is comparable. Find similar ladders at Ardingly Antiques & Collectors Fair



WHAT I'VE LEARNED

“My daughter taught me to keep my eyes open and consider vintage pieces that I might have overlooked – like the French barn doors – which give the room a unique look”



GARAGE CONVERSION



ABOVE A tiny shower room, hidden behind vintage doors, was added to turn the space into self-contained guest accommodation. 'The room would have looked sterile without the doors,' says Judith.

French barn doors, £1,200, Heirloom Home. Alpine duo basin unit, £209, Bathstore