FLAAA.UK

the ultimate guide to your perfect garden studio.

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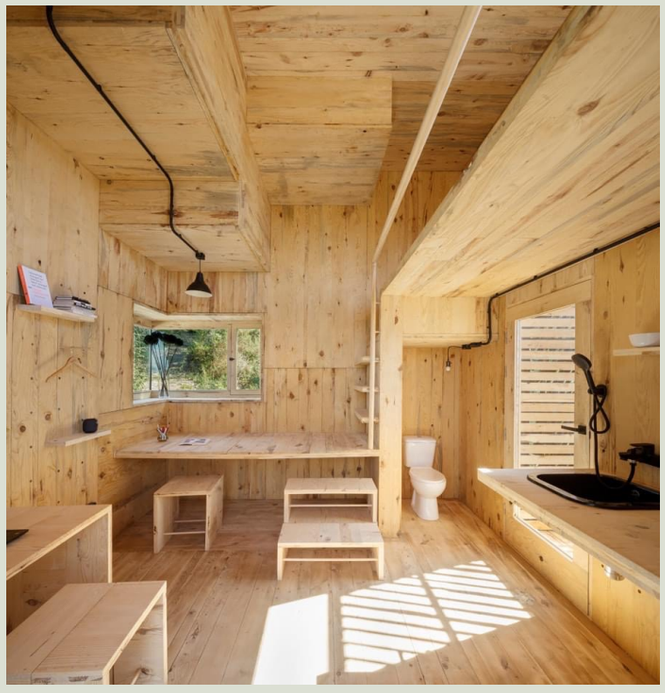
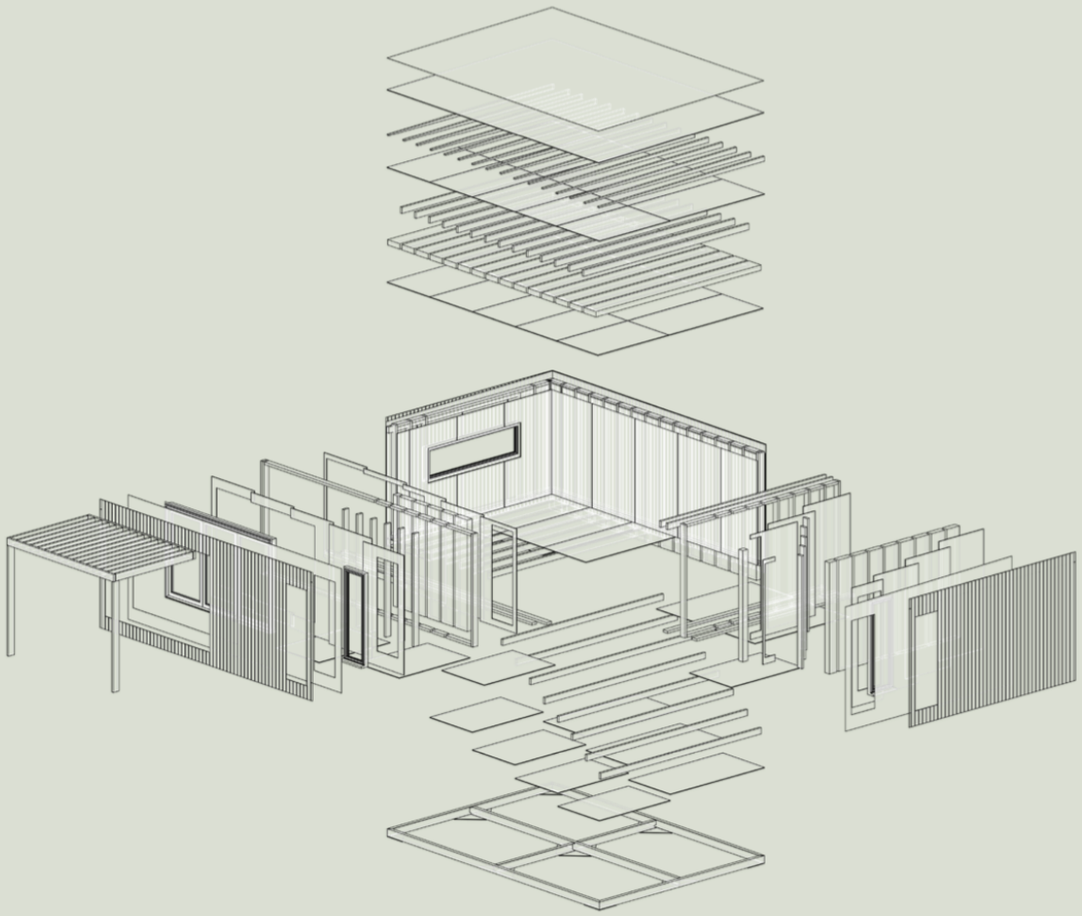



learn.

the UK's **garden studio** market has **boomed** since the 2020 pandemic. with so many **manufacturers claiming** to offer the **best products on the market**, consumers are left with a barrage of information from various sources. let us help you filter the good from the bad, so you're left with a **beautiful** product that is **built to last** from quality materials.



content.

this is how you build.

03
only the best.
materials.

05
what you dont
want to see.
capping.

04
what you see.
external cladding.

06
what surrounds
you.
internal finish.

07
keeping you dry.
roofing materials.

08
keeping you warm.
proper insulation.

09
do I need it?
planning permission.

10
no mess, no stress.
the build.

01
foundations.

what is the best foundation system for my garden studio?

avoid concrete slab foundations; this is the **time consuming** and **environmentally damaging** option. whilst currently the most common option for garden studio construction, its **messy** and **difficult construction** cause unnecesscary **cost and disruption** to the consumer, that often shows signs of wear early on in the systems life-span such **cracking, water pooling and seepage**.

it's **strenght and rigidity are fantastic**, but other options are available that can match the systems advantages.

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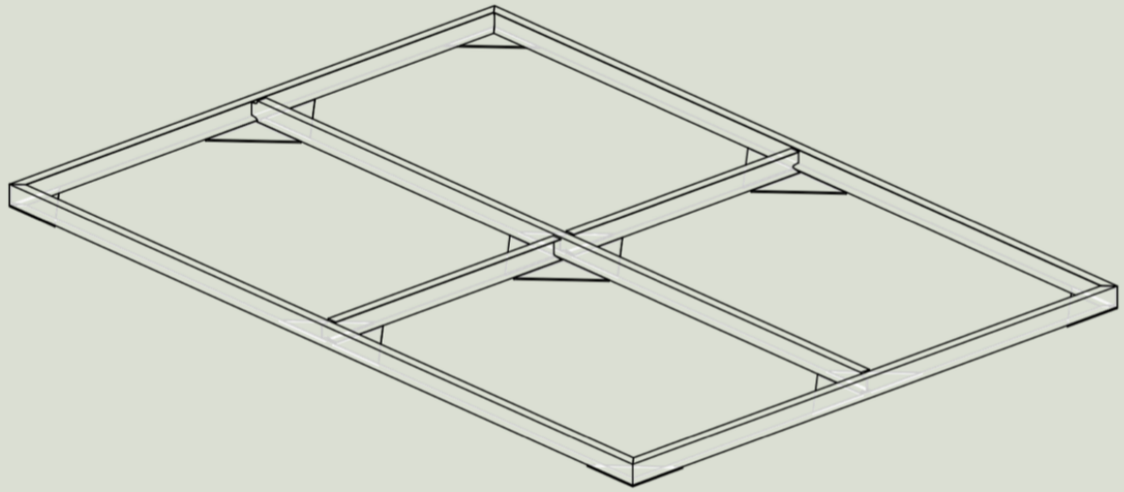
avoid ground screw foundationsons; this system, whilst common in garden studio manufacturing, seems to lack many benefits at all.

the system **relies on a very hard soil type** to maintain any rigidity, which many consumers won't have, and even in the best soil types, the **system often fails** to retain **balance** across all screws over time. this **invites issues** to the proper function of **doors and windows**, as well as **cracking** in a **plaster finish** as a result of **movement in the structure**. the system also has limitations with building regulations and the depth they can reach in the soil. **avoid any manufacturer using this system**; the cheap and time effective installation aren't worth the issues it invites.

solution.



we recommend a parallel flange **C-channel steel base** foundation on type 1 aggregate padding.

the system, similar to a concrete ring beam system reinforced with rebar is **phenomenally strong and balanced**, utilising 150mm x 75mm x 10mm steel. the system can be installed in **modular pieces on-site** in a matter of **hours**, reducing costs for the consumer in comparison to a concrete slab and **tackling tricky site access.**

the system is an **environmentally concious** alternative that betters all the negatives to a concrete slab foundation, whilst retaining its benefits such as **strenght and longevity.** its **suitable for all ground types**, and not invasive to existing vegetation.

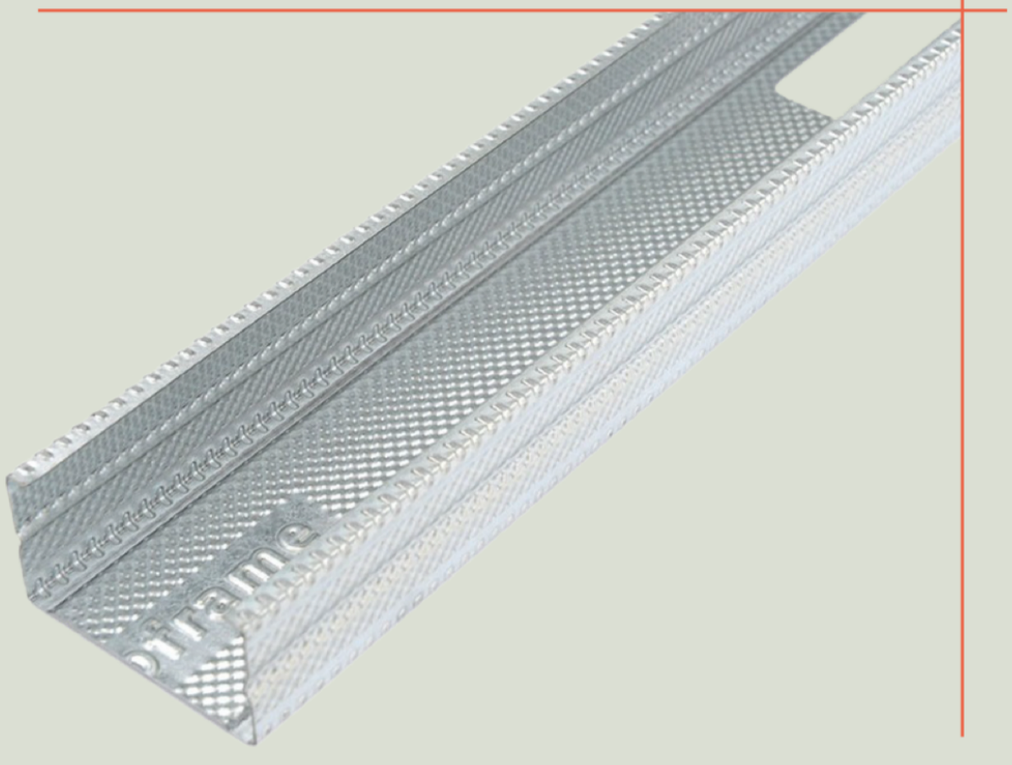
the excellent rigidity means the system invites **zero balancing issues**, unlike the ground screw foundation alternative, so a plaster finish option is worry-free, and the doors and windows to your garden room will retain proper function. **LABC building regulation approved**.

this is the only foundation system we use.

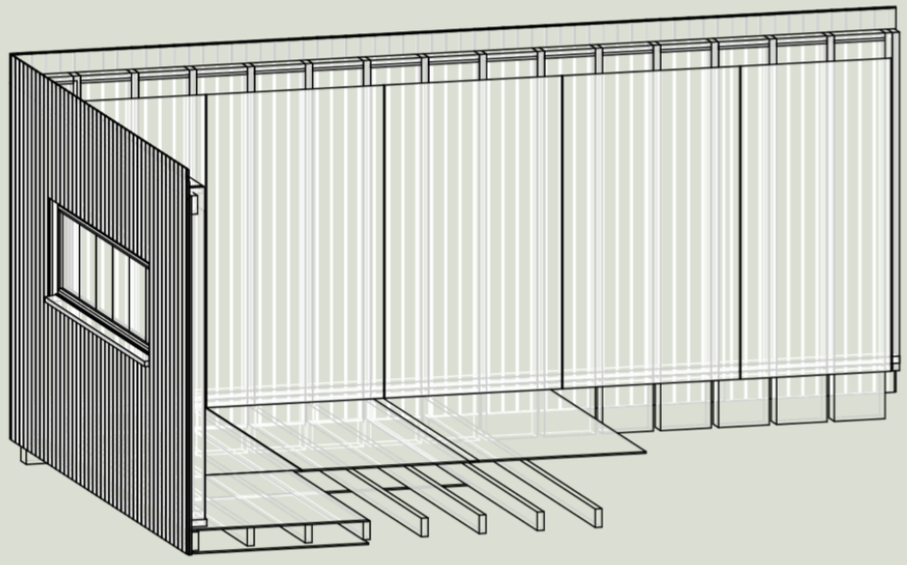
02
structure.

what is the best framework material for the structure of my my garden studio?

avoid garden studio manufacturers that use a **thin steel product** for their framework. The most popular is a British Gypsum product known as '**Gypframe**' . This is not a product that has the ability to withstand **heavy loads** with the test of time. Whilst the product is **inexpensive,** it can invite a **plethora of issues**. The **0.5mm thick steel** product has **poor load capabilites**, as well as **poor thermal conductivity** resulting in **high levels of heat loss**, and finally **poor acoustic properties** in comparison to timber, resulting in issues with **interior noise control.**



avoid manufacturers that use **SIPS Panels**, the structural quality and strenght in **comparson to traditional timber framing** that we use at BouwenStudio's are worlds apart, over time **SIPS panels** will commonly **invite issues** when used in garden studios as they have a **high suseptibility to moisture penetration** that will find its way into the structure as a result of temperature changes throughout the **seasons**. this **poor long term durability** can be avoided by using traditional timber framing.



solution.

we recommend opting for a garden studio manufacturer that uses **traditional timber framing** with a **minimum sizing recommendation** of 125mm x 47mm (5x2"); specifically the **higher class C24** timber with a more dense grain pattern. Be sure to ask your garden studio manufacturer their timber sizing and class prior to moving forward; and dont accept anything less than recommended, or alternatively, **build with us** for peace of mind. The benefits to using good quality timber include excellent **natural thermal insulation** properties, as well as **strong acoustic properties**. As well as being a sustainable material and carbon store.

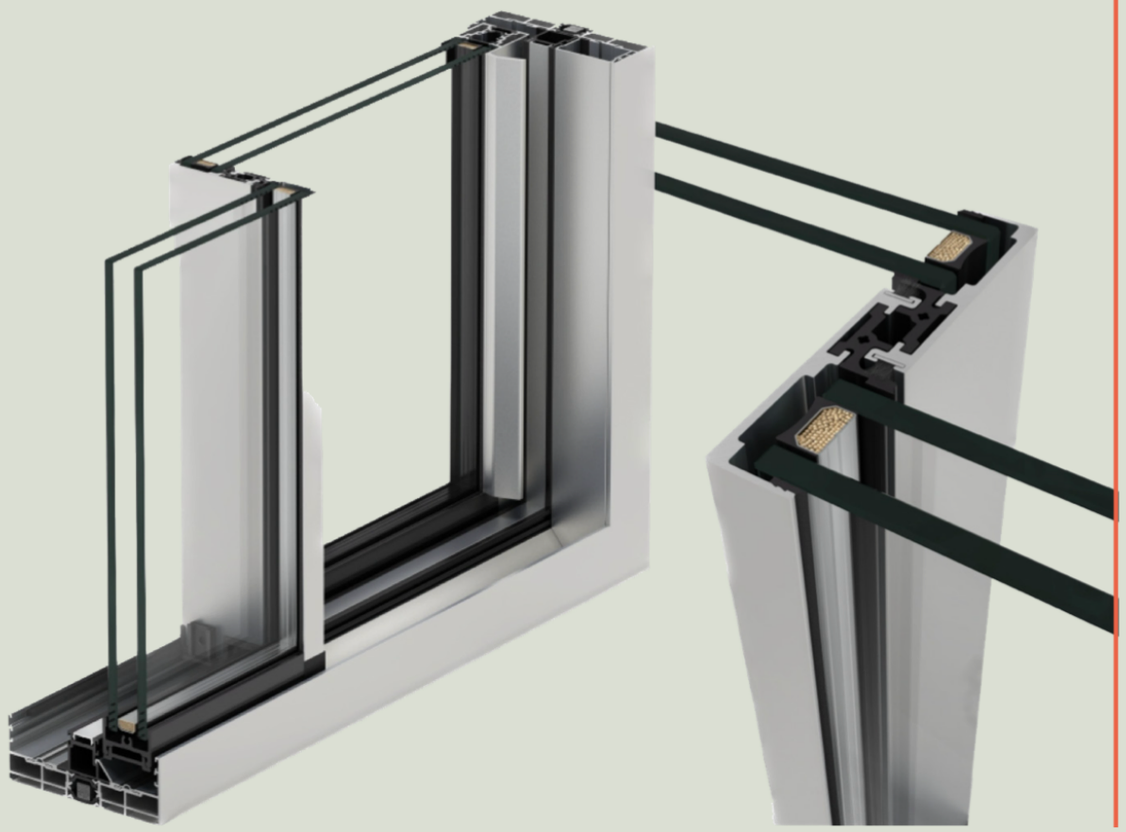
03

materials.

what materials should I be incorporating into my design to achieve a quality finish?

avoid **uPVC windows and doors.** the **petroleum-based** product has **negative effects on the environment** during its production, realeasing pollutants and is a **non-biodegradeable** product that goes to landfill at the end of its lifespan.

secondly, whilst subjective, its common opinion that the overall feel and aesthetic of uPVC units is to be improved. the **overall quality finish** aims the consumner should be looking to achieve for their garden studio will be limited with this product.



aluminium frame

solution.

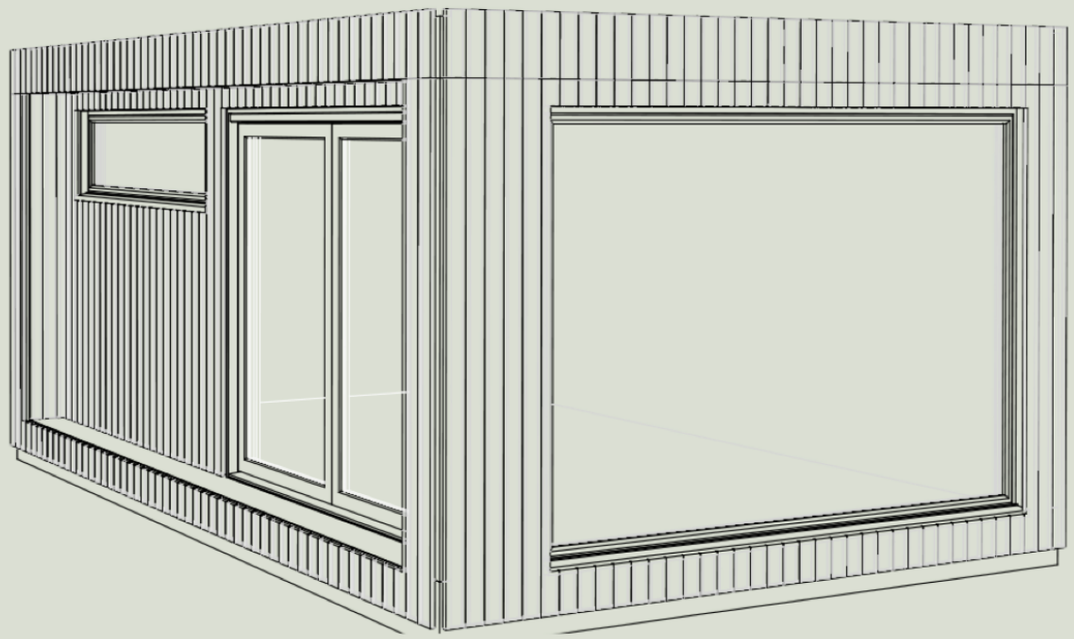
we recommnd opting for an **aluminium** product for your garden studio's **windows and doors.** our recommended manufacturers are **Raynears** and **Cortizo**. two leading manufacturers in the market that couple **value and high standards**. The quality and longevity of these products coupled with the **slim profile aesthtic** should be a high priority in your design aims. The aluminium products **boast better energy efficiency** and **weather resistance** as well as the **best strenght and durability** on the market. the feel to the user is doesnt compare to that of a uPVC unit.

bespoke colours available

04
external claddding.

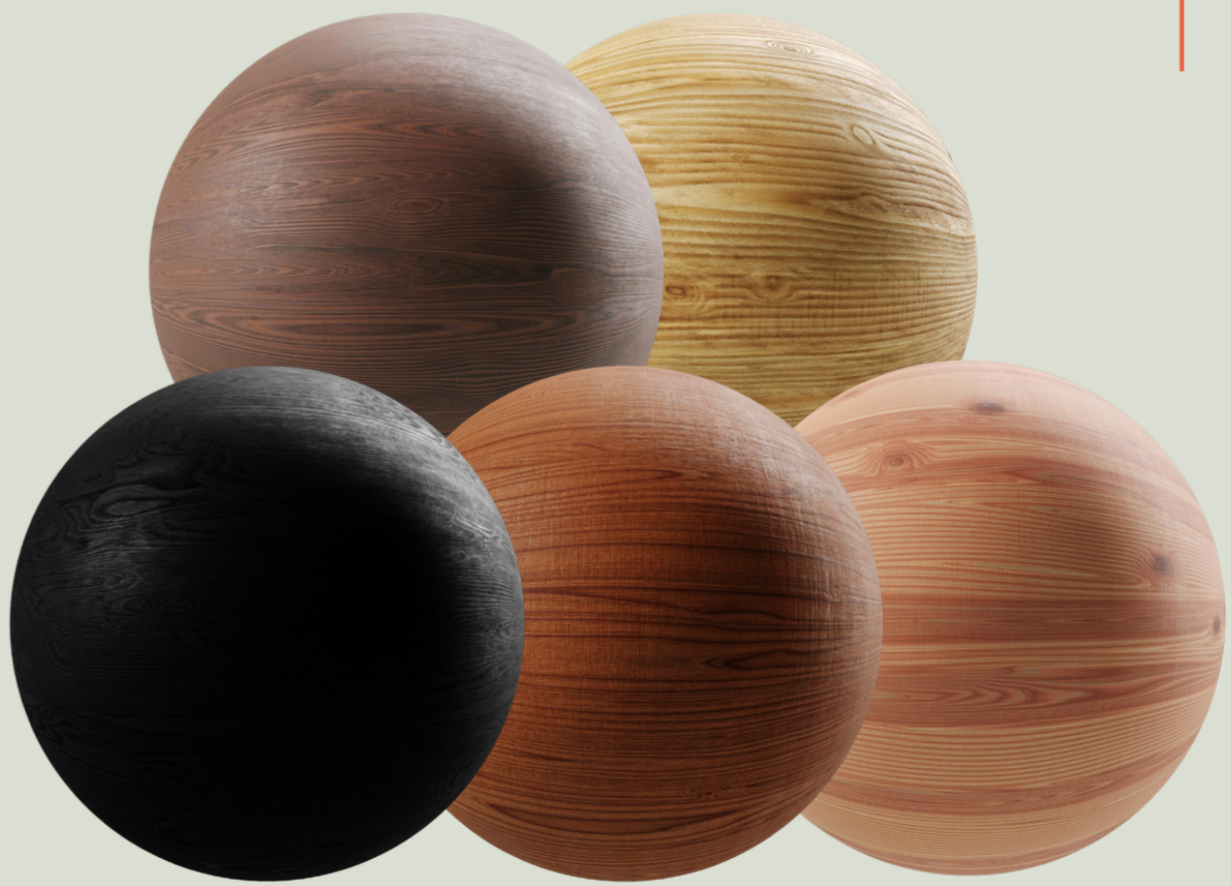
what external finish should I be looking to clad my garden studio in with quality and durability in mind?

avoid **composite timber cladding**, for the main reasons that whilst it looks aesthetically pleasing **from a distance**, this often isnt the case when closer to the product, and it has a **hard plastic look and feel** with often **rough detailing** on corners/edges. The product is **plastic based**; therefore a step backwards in regards to **sustainability** aims for a high quality garden studio. the product aims to **mimic real timber**, so we recommend using the real thing. secondly, due to the **tongue and groove** fitting system, if any boards become **damaged**, replacing them is **labour intensive** unlike a natural timber batten cladding.



solution.

we recommend exploring the variety of sustainable natural timber options such as **cedar**, **grandis**, **kebony**, **thermowood** and **shou-sugi-ban** timber, as some of the best options for a natural cladding finish. opting for a softwood proves **environmentally advantageous**, given its faster growth and prolonged durability post-modification, compared to hardwood. explore additional choices such as **zinc** cladding, or let your creative spirit flourish with entirely bespoke options. Finding a manufacturer that will **listen to your design aims** and offer high quality finishes that will last is important for this stage. walk away from manufacturers that are strict with their cladding finish options.

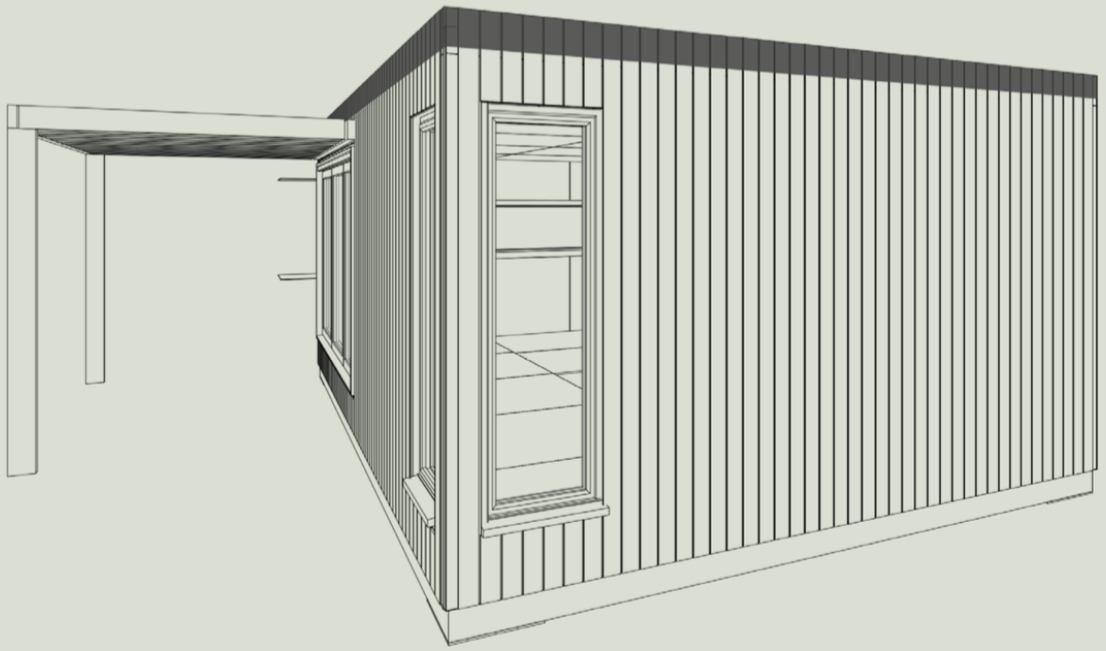


05

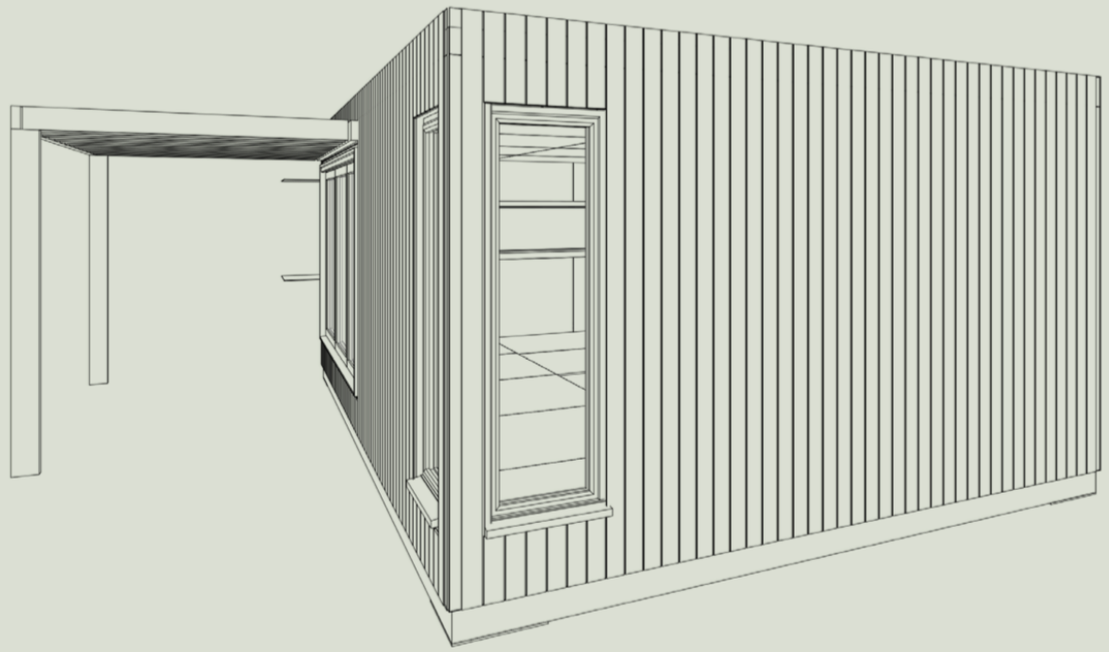
capping.

spot the difference.

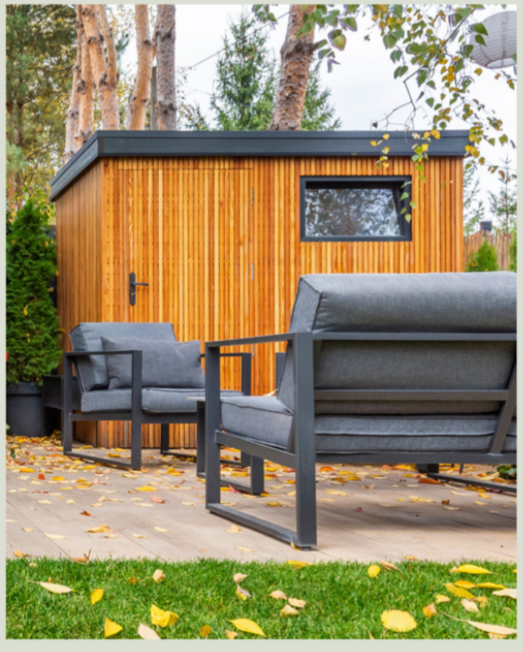
a nasty and unnecessary roofing detail impacting the finished look of your garden studio.



external cladding **with** capping.



external cladding **without** capping.



avoid the **usaesthetic** roofing material **capping** that **surrounds the top edge** of most garden studio's being produced in the UK. the **unnesscecary black banding** shows **poor design and skill** in building. As illustrated, the black band that **caps the timber cladding** on all elevations is unncesscary roofing design detail and whilst subjective, we feel its ugly and **draws the eye too much.**

solution

we recommend finding a manufacturer like BouwenStudio's that has clearly **considered** the finished design of thier garden studio's and **designed-out** this capping feature that **ruins** many promising garden studio designs.

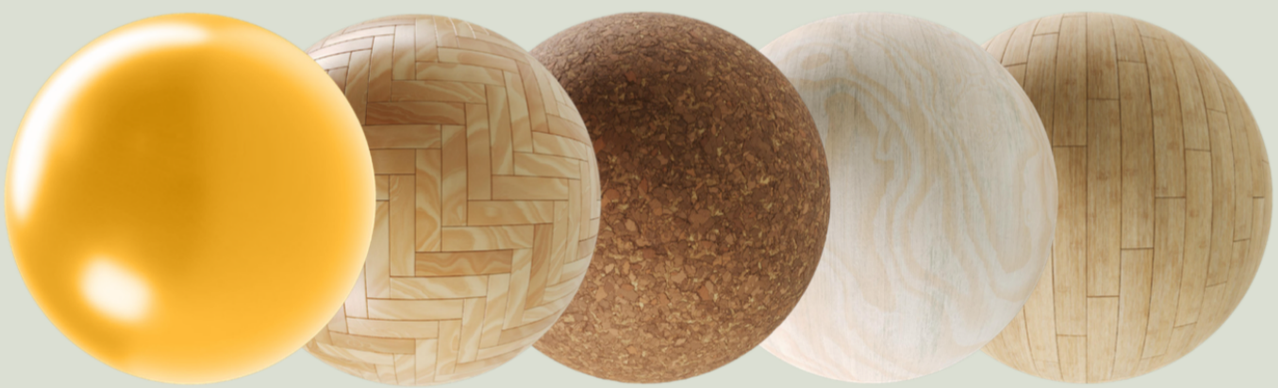
a simple **hidden capping system** that sits **behind the external cladding** pushing rainwater onto the waterproof membrane; allows the external cladding to run directly into the sky with no roofing capping drawing the eye; this is a much more considered and **aesthetic finish**. Ilustation shown above.

06
internal finish.

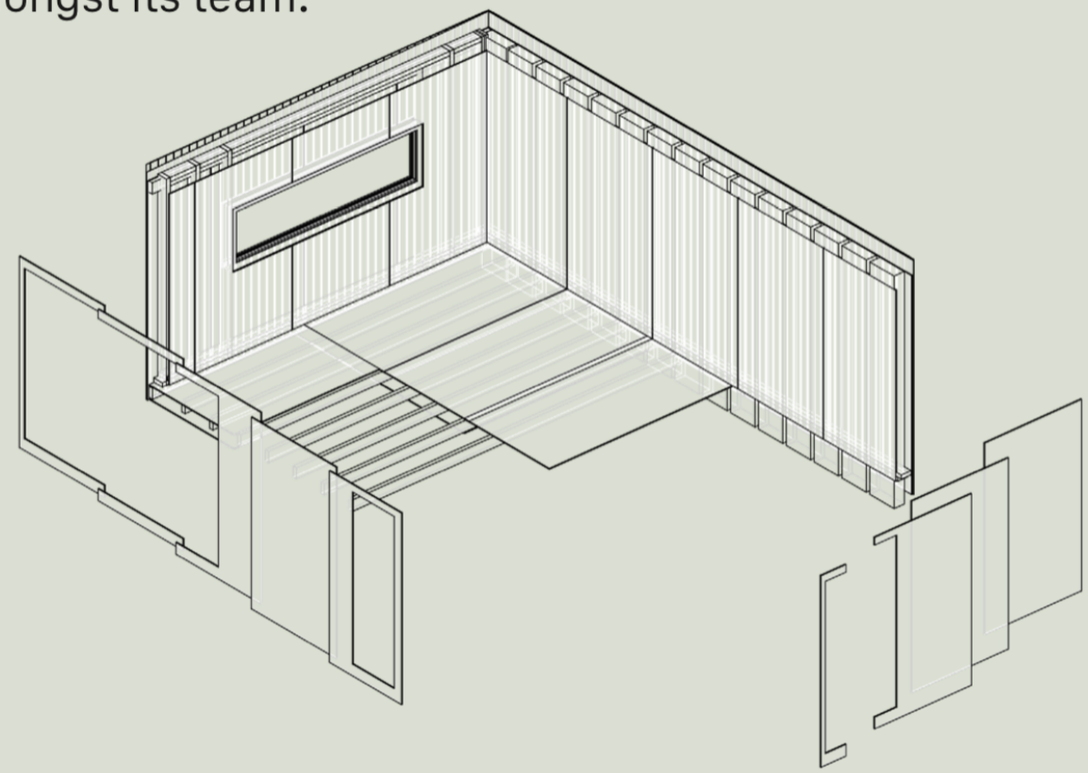
how do I want my internal space to feel and the structures needed to support this decision.

whilst a **plaster finish** isn't something you need to **avoid**, our **primary warning** with this **specific finish** is ensure you have a **solid structure and foundation system** to support this internal finish.

without a solid foundation and framework, the **plaster often cracks** due to **movement in the structure** and this can lead to a plethora of issues. the primary element that causes this issue is the **ground screw foundation system**, that we recommend **avoiding**, due to the **poor balancing and rigidity** in this **system**. thin framing materials such as Gyptrack or smaller timber sizing can also cause issues. a plaster finish is a **good option** as long as these boxes are ticked. our recommendations under sections 01 & 02 include **detailed information** on exactly why this is so important.



our recommendation for a **warm and softer feeling** to plaster, would be a **long grain birch plywood** finish. its fine grain and smooth texture provide a natural, inviting appeal to interior spaces, creating a cosy and visually appealing atmosphere. beyond its aesthetic charm, this material remains **durable and sustainable**, ensuring not only a visually appealing interior but one that is **environmentally conscious**. this finish adds the **option to match interior joinery** in the same finish such as **desks and shelving** from a good manufacturer that has joiners amongst its team.



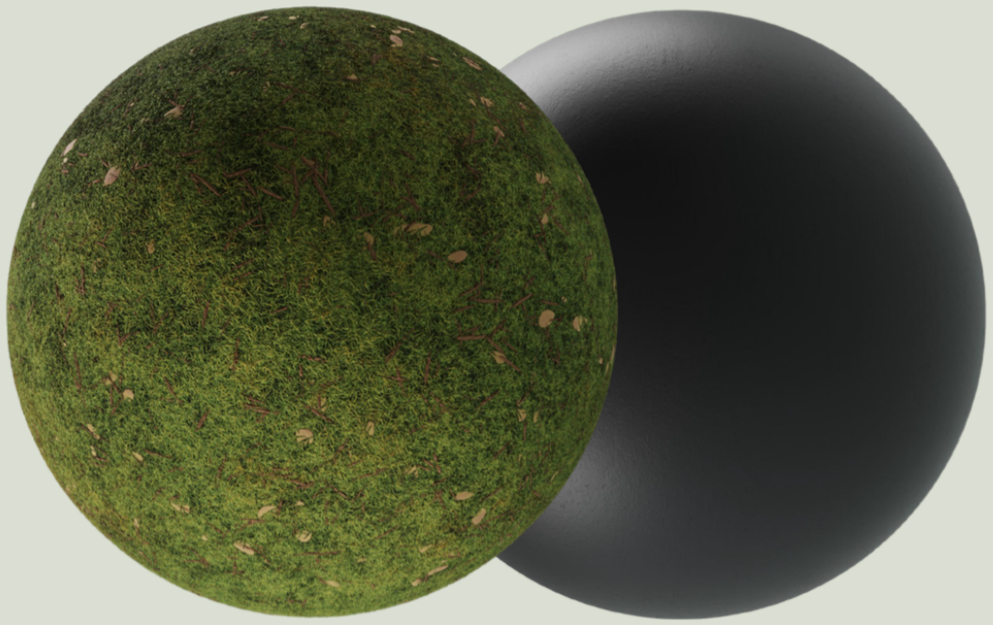
flooring provides a lot of **options** to make your garden studio **bespoke** to your taste. **vinly** is a hard wearing and relatively inexpensive option for a pop of colour. the more sustainable option to this is **rubber**, however this material is **less durable** for hard use and doesnt pair well with **underfloor heating**. the **timber options** include, but arent limited to, boarding, parquet and cork in varied finishes.

07
roofing materials.

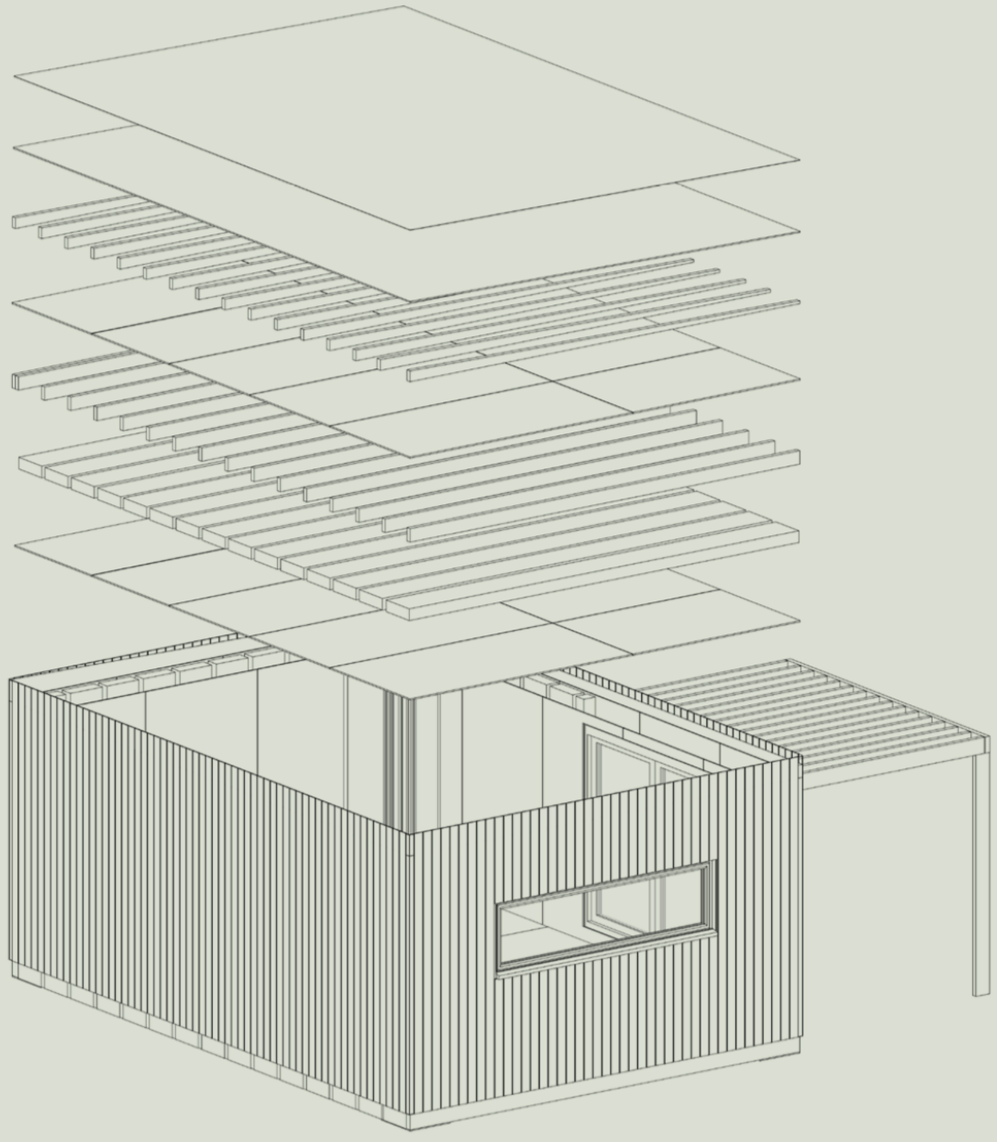
the correct build up of materials and finish.

the two **primary options** for a **strong and durable** roofing finish are a single ply **EPDM** membrane and a **sedum** roof. we would recommend questionning the reasoning behind using any other finish with your chosen garden studio manufacturer.

the EPDM single-ply membrane, proven to be the **best choice** for this type of design. This synthetic PVC system excels in **thermal performance** and **airtight construction**, effectively reducing a building's carbon footprint and providing superior **waterproofing protection**. notably **recyclable**, it boasts an extended life cycle, minimizing environmental impacts



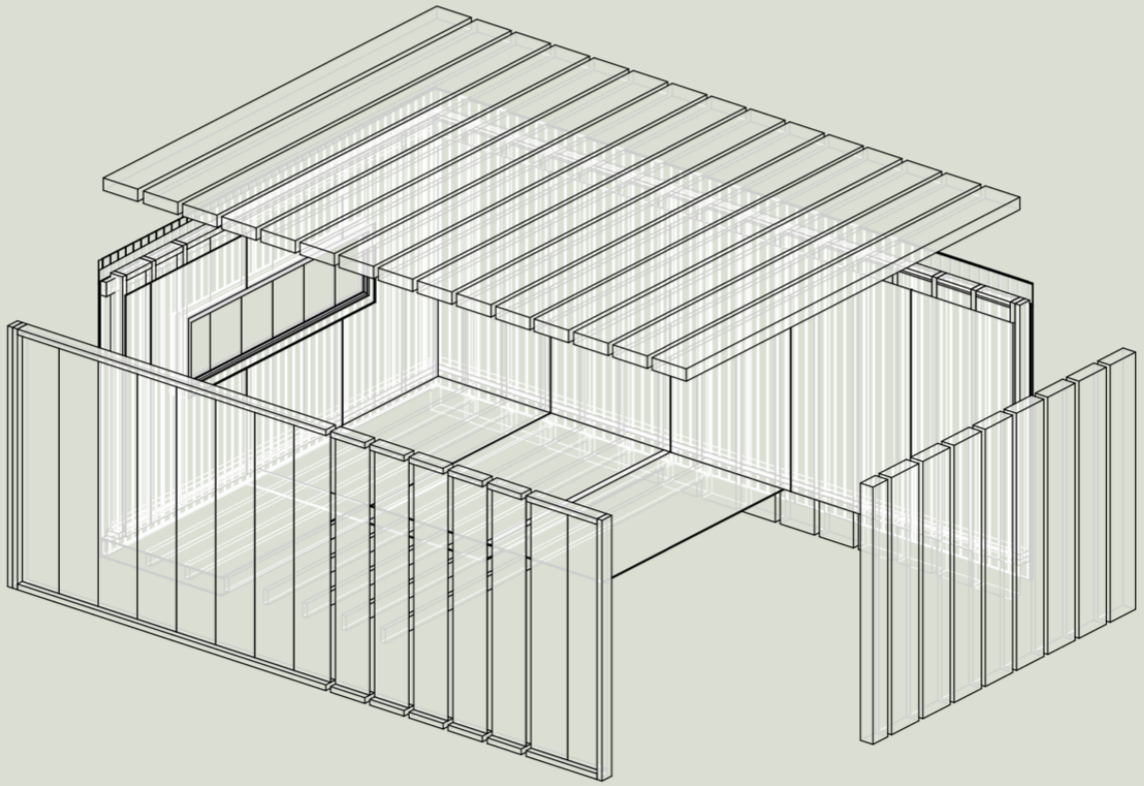
opting for a **sedum** (green) roof in construction yields a **host of benefits**. beyond its beauty, a green roof provides excellent insulation, **reducing energy consumption** and lowering heating and cooling costs for the studio. the vegetation acts as a **natural filter**, improving **air quality** by capturing pollutants and enhancing biodiversity. additionally, a sedum roof helps manage water runoff, reducing the risk of flooding and supporting **sustainable water management**. utilising a sedum roof not only enhances the visual appeal of the studio but also promotes environmental sustainability and energy efficiency.



08
proper insulation.

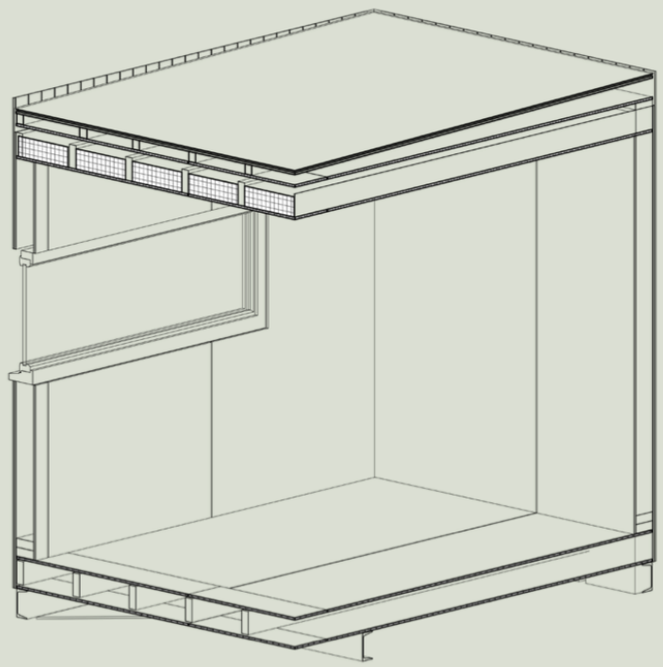
with sustainability and performance in mind; what is my best option to inuslate my garden studio?

avoid **any** garden studio **manufacturer** that uses anything less than **100mm inuslation thickness** within the **wall**, **floor** and **ceiling** cavities. Ask your supplier for a breakdown of information on the insulation of choice and thier **reasoning behind it**.



solution.

we recommnd a sheepswool based insulation product. we have found the best option for insulating our buildings with sustainability and performance in mind is to use **thermafleece insulation**, the wool based product actively captures carbon dioxide as it grows, resulting in a substantial reduction in the insulation's global warming impact. additionally, thermafleece boasts a low embodied energy of manufacture, ensuring **minimal** reliance on **fossil fuels** during production. even considering the energy consumed in the manufacturing process, each tonne of thermafleece removes over 300kg of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, contributing to its eco-friendly profile. thermafleece incorporates environmentally harmless natural fibers, ensuring they pose no threat to the ecosystem. At the end of its life cycle, thermafleece can be **safely reused or recycled**.



09
planning permission.

do I need it and what are my options without it?

without planning permission, the options to the homeowner still **allow** for **beautiful** and spacious **works** under **permitted development.**

to adhere to **permitted development** regulations, garden rooms must be single-story and have a height of less than **2.5m** externally, a criterion consistently met by **our buildings**. get in contact with our team to discuss your bespoke garden studio options within permitted development rights.

planning permission requires a **detailed planning application** to your local authority.
be cautious when applying for planning permission as its often **difficult to contend** once a decision has been made; ensure the architect or garden room supplier has **experinece in this field**. the minimum documents required on a standard application incldude, but aren't limited to;

site & location plans at 1:500 & 1:1250
existing plans at 1:100
proposed plans at 1:100
existing elevations at 1:100
proposed elevations 1:100
design and access statement

local planning authorities can also ask for, but not limited to

heritage statement
environmental impact assessment
transport assessment
lighting assessment
verified view assessment.

our team are happy to **draft, submit and manage** all planning applications for our studio's, or another manufacturers; **ensuring** you get **approval**. Contact a member of our team to view a **full example drawing set** showing the minimum requirements for an application.

10
the build.

design and build with us. enjoy the process. invest in a product that is **built to last**.

our recommendation is based off hundred of installs, years of experience and listening to industry feedback. a **strong and beautiful garden stuio** that is **built to last** using off-site manufacturing, as this allows for **workshop levels of precision**.

solution.

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the **garden studio** market has an excellent range of **quality manufacturers**, and we consider ourselves **leaders** in this **group**; however the market is also **flooded** with **poor quality manufacturers** producing less than quality products that invite a **host of issues** to the consumer over the products **life-span**. using quality products and a trusted manufacturer, like **FLAAA.UK**, is worth the investment. **contact** our team for a free site consulatation and bespoke quote for works today.

the time period for the build doesn't need to be drawn out, **off-site manufacturing** drastically **reduces the disturbance** to your home whilst maintaining the highest quality possible in **all areas of the build**. a serious manuacturer that can offer off-site manufacturing using their workshop is noticebale in finish, and there is **no chance** of poor weather complicating the build or sacrificing material quality with weather damage.

we use **high quality and sustainable** products coupled with **innovative processes** that allow us to offer the **best turn-key solutions** on the market, competitvely priced.

contact.

transform your **ideas into reality** with our **in-house architects**. we consider your site, design concepts, and handle planning permissions. our studios often qualify for permitted development.

all **quotations** are priced based on a finished turn-key product, **ready to use**. when ordering your studio you can choose from various product and design options to make your bouwen studio unique to you.

our design and build method minimises waste by incorporating surplus material into the next studio, ensuring you only **pay for what's used**.

alternatively, if another manufacturer aligns more with your aims, we're happy to **consult** on their products and methods to ensure you're getting a high quality product that isn't going to invite future issues.

FUTURE LIVING

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ALTERNATIVE AFFORDABLE ARCHITECTURE

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