

New ideas making room for home work

A rising number of people are turning their backs on long commutes and travel delays, and instead of going to the office, are bringing the office to them.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics indicate that currently 4.77 million people across the UK are self-employed. This accounts for almost 15 per cent of all workers with Scotland just below the UK average at 12.7 per cent.

Many of these will work from home and are increasingly turning to more innovative ways to create a functional office space.

These include using creative layout designs to turn a spare bedroom into a dual-purpose space that can accommodate overnight guests and also work as an office, making use of the often-overlooked space under the stairs with built-in shelving or a custom desk or, for a more permanent home office solution, adding a garden room or annexe.

These spaces can be built without planning permission, and can be manufactured off-site using materials like structural insulated panels (Sips) meaning they can be constructed quickly and efficiently, are cost-effective to heat and are perfect for year-round use.

John Langley, director of Perthshire-based JML Garden Rooms, has seen an increase in customers looking for help to create additional work or leisure space.

'With the increase in working from home, we're seeing a rise in demand for office pods.'

John Langley, JML Garden Rooms



He commented: "With the increase in people working from home and high demand for additional living space without the hassle and cost of moving home or building an extension, we're seeing a significant rise in demand for our garden rooms, office pods and garden annexes.

"They don't just make ideal offices though.

In fact we've had clients use them as gyms, art studios, guest rooms, playrooms, libraries, quiet study spaces for teens – the list is endless.

"They're also eco-friendly and highly insulated, helping to keep energy bills at a minimum and meaning that they can be used to make the most of your garden space every day of the year."

Sips can not just be used to create additional

space, they can also be used to create a whole home.

JML supplied and fitted the panels for super-efficient and sustainable west Highland retreat Lochside House, which was recently named House of the Year 2018 by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

"We are absolutely delighted that this stunning house has received the recognition it deserves," Mr Langley said.

"It is the perfect example of innovative housebuilding where sustainability has been considered throughout the build process. It shows that sustainability definitely doesn't have to mean a compromise to the beauty of a home."