

## WIN

### TRIPS TO THE HUF VILLAGE, GERMANY

At Grand Designs Live, not only can you watch the HUF HAUS team try to beat the clock and build a complete HUF house before the close of the show, but you can win one of three trips to the HUF village near Cologne.

To be eligible to win, visit the HUF HAUS build site in Royal Victoria Square, outside ExCeL's West entrance, or go to the HUF HAUS stand at the show (B60) and complete an entry form. Three randomly chosen entries will win a package for two, including flights to and from Cologne, car hire, and a night's accommodation in Hartenfels – home to the HUF village.

The prize includes a VIP tour of the HUF village and factory (the factory visit will only be available on weekdays).

For more details on the HUF HAUS build at Grand Designs Live, visit the exhibition website at [granddesignslive.com](http://granddesignslive.com).

For information on the HUF village, visit [huf-haus.de/en](http://huf-haus.de/en)

GRAND DESIGNS LIVE: HUF HOUSE

# THE LAUNCH PAD

SALES OF HUF HOUSES HAVE TAKEN OFF SINCE THE IREDALES' BUILD WAS FEATURED ON GRAND DESIGNS. NOW A CRACK TEAM OF HUF BUILDERS WILL RACE AGAINST TIME AT GRAND DESIGNS LIVE TO BUILD A COMPLETE HUF HOUSE IN JUST THREE DAYS

Words by **Claire Barrett**

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## SEE A HUF HAUS BUILT LIVE AT THE SHOW

A team will race against the clock to construct a HUF house in just three days. Beginning on Friday 10 June, when the show opens, a regular HUF team of five people will attempt to beat their current record of four and a half days – set on the *Grand Designs* programme – and get a HUF HAUS up and weather-tight by 6pm on Sunday 12 June. Will they do it? We'll just have to wait and see... At the same time, a garden setting to the HUF HAUS will be created by The Parson's Garden, exhibiting in GRANDGardens, Stand G3.



Above, the exterior of the Iredales' HUF house. Clockwise from top, Greta in the living room; David pads upstairs past his sculpture of ET; he painted the Mondrian-style mural in the dining area; Greta's sunny bathroom



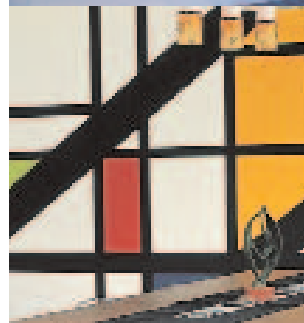
**B**efore David and Greta Iredale built themselves a HUF house in front of millions of viewers on *Grand Designs*, few had heard of the Germant house company. Now HUF is a 'haus-hold' name. Is this all down to it being on the telly? 'Definitely,' says Afra Bindewald, sales and marketing consultant at HUF. 'Our market has exploded over the last 18 months.'

In David and Greta, HUF couldn't have found two better advocates. Although in their seventies, they came across as more ballsy, daring and committed than people half their age, having decided to demolish their existing house and replace it with a slick, modern design. 'Architectural design has gone backwards in the past 30 years,' they shudder. 'It's all pseudo-everything now... there are some dreadful, characterless homes being built.' They were determined to do something better.

Admittedly, David and Greta weren't novices. They had built their two previous homes – a bungalow and a house on stilts – but it was still jaw-dropping to see them, apparently totally relaxed, watching as their second house, their home for nearly 40 years, was pulled down.

The couple aren't afraid to get their hands dirty, but this time they called in the professionals. A five-man team was dispatched from Germany and put this pre-fabricated, modular house together in a mere four and a half days, skimming a half-day off their usual time. It made for compelling viewing, and the machine-like precision of the build was certainly a change from the usual on-screen soap opera, making it one of *Grand Designs*' most memorable projects. ■

*David and Greta Iredale will be talking to Kevin McCloud about their experience of building a HUF house at 'Grand Designs Live' on Sunday 12 June at 4.30pm.*



#### A HUF HISTORY

Johann Huf founded HUF HAUS in Hartenfels, Germany, as a carpentry business in 1912. The business has grown substantially over the past three generations, but it remains very much a family enterprise. Now run by Johann's grandson, Peter Huf, it still has retained its personal touch – Peter himself is among a team of professionals that will visit a proposed site and discuss precise needs with a client. Their success is obvious; HUF HAUS now has 12 offices in Germany, two in Switzerland, and one in Austria, France and the UK – so they must be doing something right.

#### HUF OWNERS' GROUP

If you're thinking of buying a HUF house, or already own one, then a new website launched in March is a good port of call. Entirely independent from the HUF HAUS company, the group was formed by UK HUF house owners and aims to deal with specific issues relating to these houses – anything from planning permission to maintenance and market value. For more information, visit [huf-haus-owners-group.co.uk](http://huf-haus-owners-group.co.uk), or email [huf.owners@gmail.com](mailto:huf.owners@gmail.com)

## THE CARAVAN CLUB

When you're talking about a caravan and the words 'teak', 'iroko' and 'inner courtyard' are mentioned within the same sentence, you know this must be a caravan with a difference. It would seem the days of slumming it in a draughty tin can are over. Gone are laminated fake wood cupboards, nasty portaloos and chintzy fold-down sofas.

Enter The Retreat. Sleek, stylish and portable (on the back of a lorry), this is the Rolls Royce of caravan design. Designed by architects Buckley Gray Yeoman, it looks more like a slick extension than a home on wheels. Clad in wood, the launch model consisted of two pre-fabricated pods – one living room, one bedroom – linked by a thin corridor. Floor-to-ceiling glazing – double-glazed, naturally – allows in plenty of light while dispensing with the need for that woolly hat in bed. French doors, oak floorboards and Bosch kitchen appliances are fitted as standard.

At *Grand Designs Live*, a new and bigger model will be aired. Allowing you a further choice of two or three bedrooms, and an en suite bathroom, The Retreat promises to revolutionise holidaying on four wheels, and at a cost that won't break the bank – prices start at £37,750. But, if you don't fancy finding a plot yourself, then hot-foot it down to the first Retreat Park due to open this summer in Dawlish, South Devon, where there'll be a whole host of them up for grabs. ■

*Retreat Homes* (020 7033 9913; [retreathomes.co.uk](http://retreathomes.co.uk))



*Top right, Bosch kitchen appliances come as standard; centre, The Retreat at night; bottom, the open-plan living area. Right, a two-bedroom model will debut at 'Grand Designs Live'*