

Outdoor Classrooms & Canopies









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Since the early days of the company, Setter Play has been at the forefront of the design, supply and installation of outdoor classrooms and canopies. Outdoor shelters can be complex structures involving consultation with architects and clients, precision drawings for planning applications, structural calculations for building control submissions as well as balancing cost and quality. Setter Play have been building shelters of all styles, shapes and sizes at a variety of locations throughout the country including listed buildings, areas of outstanding natural beauty, stately homes and of course school grounds old and new for many years. We have gained a reputation amongst main contractors and local authorities alike as the company to approach to find a solution at the right price. Safe working practices in the building of complex structures is crucial and so our installers are qualified to work at heights, with scaffold towers and other related tasks ensuring complete compliance and peace of mind in all aspects of any build.













Designed in close discussion with head teachers, Chatterbox is a sheltered meeting place, a place to rest and of course an open air classroom. Several options are available for seating.

Chatterbox can be designed to fit most space and size constraints including square, rectangular, hexagonal as well as an option designed to fit into corners.

Gazebos have become more commonplace in schools over recent years largely due to the attractive shape they present. They are a cost effective solution to providing a playground shelter perhaps for waiting parents or outdoor teaching, although we would advise a Chatterbox as the most suitable structure for a more flexible outdoor classroom.













Chatterbox shelters can come in all shapes and sizes and with different features if required. Features such as Dutch Gables, valleys and hips on angled shelters, integral roof lights and even clear roof coverings can be integrated into the designs giving the shelters a more individual look than standard Chatterboxes.













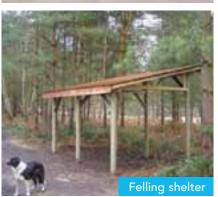
Chatterbox is a perfect structure to adapt to match building styles and features. Features such as the roof covering or the roof pitch can be altered to reflect and enhance elements of existing buildings in instances such as graded listings or planning rules requiring sympathy with the environment. Our timber frames are often a preferred option to steel, more attractive and more sustainable.















Designed to suit a forested environment, the Setter Forest Shelter can now be seen in some of the country's most famous forests including Sherwood, the New Forest, Forest of Dean and many more. The design features an open gable roof to provide minimal visual impact from the end elevations. The supporting logs are designed to reflect the boughs of a tree reaching out to support the splaying roof. The roof pitch is quite shallow, once again to reduce visual impact and the materials have been chosen to sit within the trees in harmony. All timbers used are always FSC certified and can be specified home grown too. The standard sizes available are 6M x 4M, 9M x 6M (the most common) and 12M x 8M. Custom sizes are available. We have also designed a mini forest shelter, known as a felling shelter, for shelter at stopping points on forest trails.











Designed as an antidote to steel, Setter Play has come up with elegant, simple, and sustainable curved timber cycle shelters. The simplest shelter is a quadrant measuring 4.2M x 2.1M which, as standard, houses up to ten cycles but which can be extended to meet the demands required. We have also developed the cycle shelter to include a parent waiting area in the larger curve. The dimensions are 7M x 4M in total with the split between cycle park and pedestrian space being determined by the local requirement.















Setter Play have become specialists in a relatively short space of time, in the design and construction of timber curved beam canopies. Since our first in 2009, we have now found them to be the most popular style of canopy we produce.

It is probably the graceful arc of the roof produced with precision in natural glulam timber beams that is the appeal, although the ability to span greater distances than our conventional canopies is a functional positive too. Different roof coverings are available with the most practical being opal providing light diffusion and UV protection. Bronze has a similar effect but does not provide the inherent brightness of opal. Clear roofing sheets are often used for entrance canopies providing natural daylight for visitors.

All curved beam canopies come with machine rounded and sanded logs for 'edge free' support. Square legs and/ or post protectors are available as options. Full structural calculations are provided as standard with every canopy.





























Often a simple, functional solution is best. Our mono pitch canopies provide just that. Mono pitch canopies are unpretentious, practical shelters for all environments. They are generally free standing meaning they are installed without troubling existing buildings either structurally or visually. Canopies tend to be installed adjacent to existing buildings and provide a 'drip free' transition between indoors and out using a variety of design details. Canopies tend to be covered in opal multi wall polycarbonate as standard which provides UV protection and direct light diffusion. Clear or bronze roof coverings are available.











Sometimes timber simply will not fit the bill; whether it is aesthetics or personal preference that influences the decision it is often a deep seated view that cannot be changed. Therefore Setter Play has responded by providing options in steel. As with the timber canopies the structures are not 'off the shelf' products, but instead are designed to suit the requirements of the client. The finished colour can be specified to suit your project and steelwork comes galvanised and polyester powder coated for longevity. Roof covering options are the same as the timber canopies; opal, clear and bronze polycarbonate.













Socialising is a crucial part of development and so our shaded seating areas are designed to encourage this. We have included a framework roof covered in UV filtering mesh in order to protect the children whilst they sit and chat.









Performance helps childrens' confidence. Our stages encourage social skills and confidence literally providing a platform from which to project oneself. Our stages tend to be 300mm high which provides enough height to make a difference, but not too high to present accessibility issues or fall risks. Stages can be simple platforms or they can be more defined with a backdrop, wings and a roof. The roof can be either a frame like a pergola or solid with either boards or polycarbonate sheeting. We can install benches as permanent installations either in an arc around the stage or tiered in the style of an amphitheatre.





Story time areas have become a popular feature to use as a treat to learn at. The toadstool seats are made from rubber and so are soft and bright and the story teller's chair is a robust commanding throne from which to draw children in with evocative tales from the imagination. Different surfaces such as realistic synthetic grass, funky coloured synthetic grass or rubber surfaces can be laid around the area to provide a clear distinction between the story time area and the surrounding spaces.









Designed to be a clearly defined space for quiet teaching or outdoor lessons the Tranquil Pool can be made to fit into any space from a 4M x 4M square area to the full sized version which measures approximately $12M \times 8M$.





Music Zones











Music helps develop creativity and imagination. An outdoor music space can provide an innovative environment for a variety of teaching and learning methods. Play and experimentation with instruments outdoors provides a uniquely wholesome experience. Setter Play can design a music zone to stimulate and encourage independent or collaborative learning. Instruments can be free standing or mounted and each one is tuned and ready to play.











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