

# living

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Interiors, entertaining, travel and lifestyle

## On the move

Banish all thoughts of nylon and ugly trailers: today's nomadic living is chic on wheels.

If the idea of camping conjures up visions of collapsing tents in waterlogged fields, think again. Today, camping out is about style and comfort - a back-to-nature experience without sacrificing any luxuries. Whether you opt for a tupee in your garden, a caravan that doubles as a guest room in the field next door, or a vintage Airstream trailer for blissful weekends on the coast, mobile living has never been so chic.

The Conran Shop began the summer with window displays of brightly-painted retro caravans that had been gutted of >

Photographer Simon Brown's beloved vintage Airstream caravan. Foreground, from left: straw hat, £49, at Brissi. Floral deck chair, £80, at Kate Forman. Blue deck chair, £24, sling, £6. Both at Habitat. Striped cushion, £26, at Baileys. South American antique rug and cushions, from £68, at Brissi. French café chair, £99.50, at Graham & Greeno. Barbecue, £67, at Conran Shop. Oil lamps, from £26, at Baileys. Lanterns: small, £19; large, £59. Both at Brissi. Surfboard customised by Camilla Barneby. All other items, stylist's own





Clockwise from top left, inside a luxurious yurt at the Hoopoe Yurt hotel; the interior of an Airstream at The Shady Dell RV Park; Terence and Vicki Conran's turquoise trailer; Serena Cook's tepee in Ibiza, decorated as carefully as her home; a Pod – a simple, stylish mobile living unit for two



their original fittings as a new take on the summer house. Although not officially for sale, the caravans were snapped up by customers, while Terence and Vicki Conran have installed a turquoise trailer in their own Berkshire garden. A more design-conscious take on the traditional caravan can be found at **POD CARAVANS** (Podcaravans.com), who provide simple, stylish living units for two. Each Pod has a double bed with cooking and washing facilities, and is so light a classic Mini can tow it. They are available in a range of pastel shades,

Amazon.co.uk), which explores the many uses of Airstreams, from holiday transport to permanent residence, and from home office to businesses such as diners and stores. Featuring the trailers of design gurus such as Ralph Lauren and Cynthia Rowley, the book is packed with decorating ideas. Littlefield speaks of “silver fever”, which is contagious just through

LTD (Airstream-caravans.com). Owner Sarah-Jane Magee will even source a particular style if they don't have your choice in stock.

For some (particularly those of the hippie-chic Alice Temperley mould), nothing beats canvas. Serena Cook, from the Ibiza-based concierge company **DELICIOUSLY SORTED** (Deliciouslysortedibiza.com), lives in a one-bedroom cottage on the island. In need of a spare room, she had a tepee made for her garden, furnishing it as she would a home: the bed lies on a Persian rug and a mirror hangs on a canvas wall. Word travels fast and she now provides tepees for houses and parties around the island as part of her concierge service. Similarly, Wiltshire-based **ASIAN TENTS** (Asiantents.co.uk) specialises in hand-block-printed Rajasthani tents with sides that roll up to make a perfect shade in a garden or chill-out tent at balmy summer parties. Or head for the **HOPOE YURT** Hotel (I-escape.com), an eco-camping experience in Andalusia, Spain. Its two yurts – one Mongolian, the other from Afghanistan – provide peaceful living spaces. It's time to hit the road. ■

## Camping is about style and comfort – a back-to-nature experience without sacrificing luxuries

or can be custom-coloured to match your car.

To get the most out of your mobile home – whether it's a nomadic yurt or a futuristic trailer – you want something that works as well in the garden as it does in a field at Glastonbury. Photographer Simon Brown fell for America's sleek metallic Airstream trailers back in the Sixties, and 30 years later he bought one for himself. Now he keeps his 1975 “Flying Cloud” in a friend's field in East Sussex, where idyllic weekends are spent with his family. His passion led him to pair up with writer Bruce Littlefield to compile *Airstream Living* (Collins, £14, at

reading the pages alone. If you get the bug and want to try one, **VINTAGE VACATIONS** (Vintagevacations.co.uk) has four Airstreams in a heavenly setting on a dairy farm on the south coast of the Isle of Wight available to rent. If you are more Paris Hilton in *The Simple Life*, try **THE SHADY DELL RV PARK** in Bisbee, Arizona (Theshadydell.com) – an original American roadside trailer park that has been restored and re-fitted with vintage aluminium trailers by a couple of former antique dealers. If you'd like to rent or buy one in the UK, contact **AMERICAN CARAVANS**