



*News and views*  
**KEVIN  
 McCLOUD**

Our editor-at-large shares insider secrets about the next series of *Grand Designs*, and muses on the benefits of model making

**Y**ou may remember a bungalow on the Isle of Wight featured on series 10 of *Grand Designs* – lovingly reimagined and added to by architectural designer Lincoln Miles and his artist partner Lisa. It was a film typified by experimental approaches: Linc set fire to the larch cladding to scorch it; Lisa threw cow dung and yoghurt at the agricultural cement board cladding to encourage algae and moss. The finished building captured the mood of the vintage moment as a container full of recycled Fifties switches, door handles and chairs. It also neatly encapsulated the mood of the Isle of Wight. To visit the island is to take a Tardis trip back to a nostalgic, post-war world of summer holidays where your deckchair neighbours might be Miss Marple, Billy Bunter or Just William.

To anyone my age, such mental souvenirs are irresistible. To creatives like Lincoln and Lisa, they are the raw materials for inspiration; an inspiration that produced a building steeped in memory as much as yoghurt, and combined the retro appeal of the bungalow with the hearty farming culture found in the centre of the island. Cut off from mainland Britain by a 20-minute ferry trip

(it might as well be 20 hours or 20 years), the Isle of Wight-be-a-bit-too-modern-for-my-taste seems conservative, and modest. Architecture here is traditional, although there are some smashing examples of twenty-first-century building. Look up The Sett by Dow Jones Architects (020 8675 2544; dowjonesarchitects.com) or the Sea Glass House by the Manser Practice (020 8741 4381; manser.co.uk), both of which suggest how progressive Isle of Wight planning is. Nevertheless, these buildings are hidden away (to best appreciate the island's contemporary architecture you have to circumnavigate it in a boat) and the abiding impression of the built environment is as traditional as vanilla ice cream.

But now Lincoln is building again, this time for clients Bram and Lisa Vis who have commissioned a home measuring 850 square metres shaped like a giant V above the Solent estuary. It is no vanilla ice cream house – it will be clad in Kebony, a heat-treated timber, and black waste offcuts from the board milling industry. It will be another fine addition to the island's private, seafront dwellings and, all being well, it will be part of the next TV series of *Grand Designs* in September 2015. →



◀ Grand designers Lincoln Miles and Lisa Traxler reimagined the original Seventies bungalow and attached it to a new timber-framed tower via a glazed hallway

Rachael Smith