



The orb is a high-tech home based on a Romany caravan

Shape of things to come?

A new mobile home has been launched which its makers claim could revolutionise the industry. Designed by Philip Simpson, The Orb uses marine technology to “embrace old and new”, bringing a futuristic style to the traditional concept of a Romany caravan.

“This is a new generation of mobile homes, created to fire the imagination of younger, more style-conscious people,” said Philip. “At the moment, the industry is geared towards the older generation, but there is a huge, untapped market of urban professionals and younger families looking for something different.”

According to the National Caravan Council, there are 335,000 caravan holiday homes in the UK, with around 26,000 built every year. Now estimated at more than £3bn a year and attracting

around 11 per cent of British holidaymakers, the market has soared in popularity in recent times after some celebrities emerged as caravan holiday fans.

Philip’s company, Orb Properties, teamed up with architect David Miller, designer of the award-winning Lords’ Cricket Ground Media Centre, to create the durable, lightweight and transportable structure.

The Orb has an integrated chassis that removes the threat of corrosion and makes the structure tough, long-lasting and adaptable. Made from Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP), its unique shape and extensive glazing create a haven of light and space.

Sleeping up to seven and with a retail price of around £60,000, The Orb is a sustainable solution, tackling the “churn and burn” approach criticised by government. The interior, reflecting the style of a luxury

yacht, can be refitted, while the outside is built to last, decade after decade.

Insulation efficiency means The Orb can produce longer rental potential into early spring and late autumn, a bonus for park owners and equity groups seeking maximum profits from investments.

“We believe The Orb can carve out its own market, in between the existing static caravans and lodge homes,” Philip said. “We envisage collections of Orbs on ‘boutique’ holiday parks. We’re heartened by the response we’ve received.

“The Orb gives consumers what they are looking for and what the industry is missing.” ■

► For more information, tel: 020 7422 7501, email: philip@theorb.biz, website: www.theorb.biz.

JIM GIBBARD - THIS IS YOUR LIFE!

THE life and work of Jim Gibbard, who stepped down as Tingdene Chairman on his 75th birthday in February, 40 years after he founded the company, was celebrated recently at a ‘This Is Your Life’ presentation organised by the new Chairman, Jim’s son Christopher, and various colleagues and friends.

Guests included representatives from all sectors of the park home and leisure lodge industries, rotary club, magistrates and also from the various charities with which he has been associated.

Over the years he has been responsible for raising more than £1m for charity in a number of ways – including running

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