Rosethorn
Boat Builders

THE FLOATING SPACE DESIGN GUIDE

25 ways a bespoke butty can transform life on the water

MORE SPACE. LESS COMPROMISE.

Business | Work | Living | Leisure | Storage

THE IDEA

Keep the boat you love.

Add the space you need.

Most people do not need a bigger boat.

They need more space.

Whether you run a floating business, live aboard full-time, work remotely, welcome guests or simply need better storage, a bespoke Rosethorn butty can expand what is possible without replacing your existing craft.

- **Keep your existing narrowboat**
- **Create a purpose-built extra room**
- **Choose a layout shaped around you**
- **Adapt the space as your needs change**



BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL

Grow Your Business Afloat

Purpose-built space that can help a floating business trade, make, store and serve.



BESPOKE DESIGN | BUILT AROUND YOUR BOAT, BUSINESS AND LIFESTYLE

1 Floating Shop

A dedicated retail space for gifts, crafts, clothing, canalware or specialist products.

DESIGN VALUE
display | stock | customer flow

2 Floating Cafe

A practical serving and preparation space designed around your menu and operation.

DESIGN VALUE
service | capacity | separation

3 Artisan Food Business

Extra capacity for produce, packaging, secure storage and festival trading.

DESIGN VALUE
storage | hygiene | mobility

4 Mobile Workshop

A self-contained workspace for repairs, making, engineering or specialist trades.

DESIGN VALUE
tools | workbench | security

BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL

Trade Where Customers Gather

Create a memorable destination at floating markets, festivals, marinas and canalside events.



BESPOKE DESIGN | BUILT AROUND YOUR BOAT, BUSINESS AND LIFESTYLE

5 Canal Market Trader

A travelling shop that adds stock capacity and professional presentation.

DESIGN VALUE
display | branding | revenue

6 Floating Showroom

Take products and customer conversations directly to new locations.

DESIGN VALUE
visibility | experience | reach

7 Pop-Up Event Space

A flexible shell for launches, tastings, workshops or visitor engagement.

DESIGN VALUE
flexibility | events | footfall

8 Business Support Barge

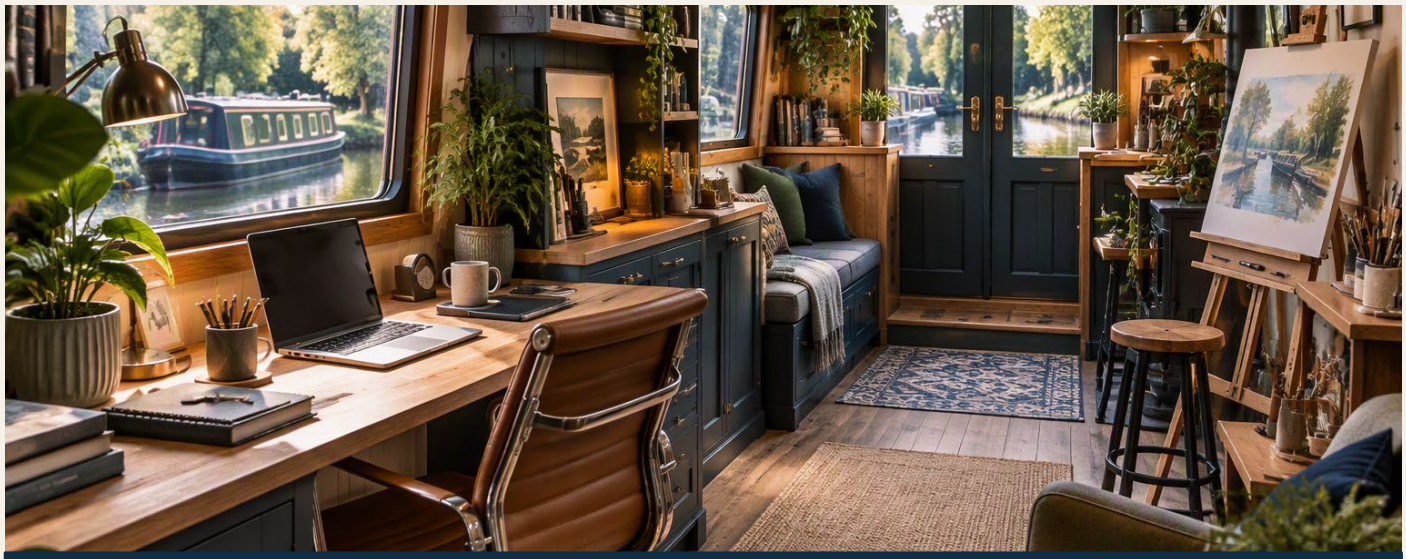
Separate stock, preparation or staff facilities from the selling space.

DESIGN VALUE
capacity | organisation | growth

WORK AND CREATIVITY

Make Space for Better Work

A focused environment away from the pressures and interruptions of the main cabin.



BESPOKE DESIGN | BUILT AROUND YOUR BOAT, BUSINESS AND LIFESTYLE

9 Home Office

A quiet, professional workspace for remote work and video calls.

DESIGN VALUE
focus | privacy | balance

10 Design Studio

A considered setting for drawing, writing, consulting and creative thinking.

DESIGN VALUE
light | calm | storage

11 Photography Studio

A compact production and editing space with secure equipment storage.

DESIGN VALUE
workflow | equipment | control

12 Artist Studio

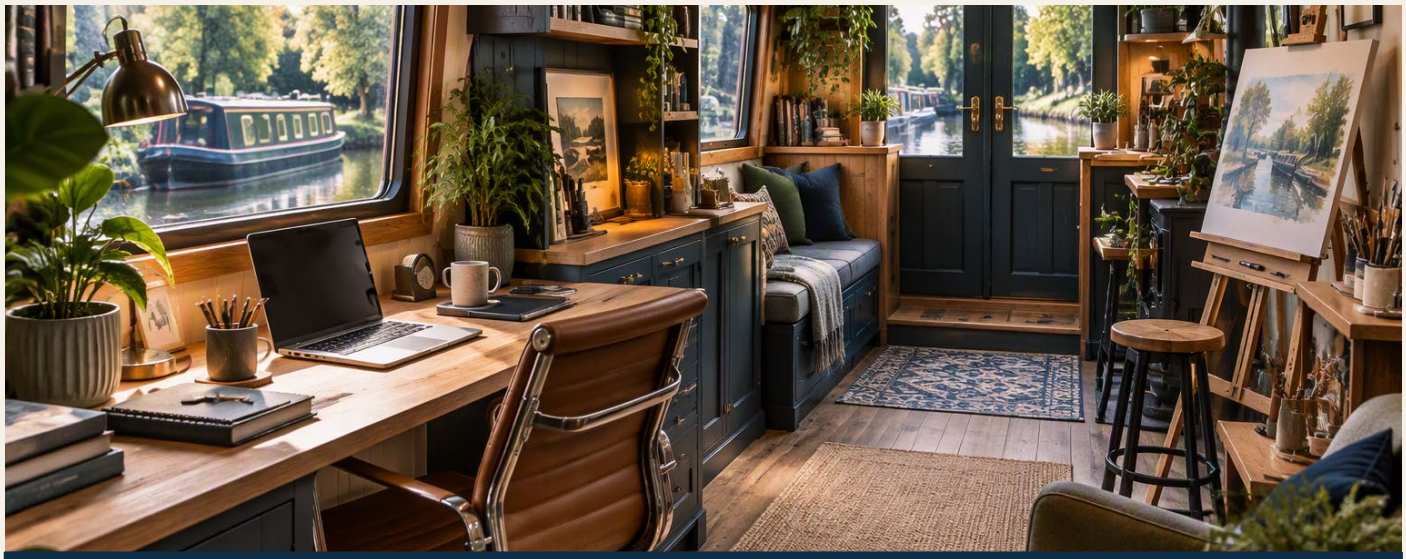
Natural light and room to create without taking over your home.

DESIGN VALUE
making | materials | inspiration

WORK AND CREATIVITY

Create, Record and Communicate

A flexible floating studio can support digital work as well as traditional crafts.



BESPOKE DESIGN | BUILT AROUND YOUR BOAT, BUSINESS AND LIFESTYLE

13 Content Studio

A dedicated setting for filming, editing, podcasting and online teaching.

DESIGN VALUE
production | sound | storage

14 Writing Room

A distraction-free retreat for authors, researchers and thinkers.

DESIGN VALUE
focus | quiet | routine

15 Teaching Space

Host small practical sessions, demonstrations or one-to-one tuition afloat.

DESIGN VALUE
learning | layout | experience

16 Adaptable Project Room

Reconfigure the interior as projects, clients and seasons change.

DESIGN VALUE
modular | flexible | future-ready

LIVING SPACE

Room for Family and Guests

Comfortable extra accommodation without surrendering the boat and lifestyle you already enjoy.



BESPOKE DESIGN | BUILT AROUND YOUR BOAT, BUSINESS AND LIFESTYLE

17 Additional Bedroom

Create a comfortable extra sleeping space for everyday or occasional use.

DESIGN VALUE
comfort | privacy | capacity

18 Guest Suite

Offer visitors a more private, considered place to stay on the water.

DESIGN VALUE
welcome | finish | independence

19 Teenager's Retreat

Personal space for sleeping, studying and relaxing.

DESIGN VALUE
privacy | study | harmony

20 Utility Room

Move laundry, equipment and practical tasks out of the main cabin.

DESIGN VALUE
order | function | convenience

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

Build the Space You Dream About

Turn additional waterborne space into a retreat shaped around the way you relax and recharge.



BESPOKE DESIGN | BUILT AROUND YOUR BOAT, BUSINESS AND LIFESTYLE

21 Floating Garden Room

A calm, light-filled sitting room for enjoying the water in every season.

DESIGN VALUE
views | comfort | escape

22 Reading or Cinema Room

A cosy, weather-independent space for books, films and music.

DESIGN VALUE
relaxation | storage | entertainment

23 Hobby Room

Keep crafts and collections organised and ready to enjoy.

DESIGN VALUE
focus | organisation | enjoyment

24 Leisure Retreat

Explore entertaining, studio or spa-inspired concepts.

DESIGN VALUE
lifestyle | hosting | individuality

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

Make Every Metre Work Harder

Good design can remove clutter, protect equipment and simplify life aboard.



WORKSHOP

Separate tools, noise and mess from the main boat.

CYCLE STORAGE

Protect bikes and outdoor equipment.

WATERSPORTS

Store paddleboards, kayaks and wet equipment.

PET SPACE

Create a practical area for bedding, food and outdoor kit.

25. Future-Proof Space

Today's workshop can become tomorrow's office, guest room or studio.

PLAN YOUR SPACE

Five Questions to Start Your Design

The clearest brief starts with how you want the space to work.

01

What problem should the butty solve?

Storage, work, accommodation, trading, leisure or a combination.

02

Who will use it?

Consider customers, guests, family members, pets and accessibility.

03

What must it carry or contain?

List equipment, furniture, stock, utilities and secure storage.

04

How will the use change over time?

Plan flexible furniture, partitions and services.

05

What should it feel like?

Practical, premium, traditional, modern, calm, creative or commercial.

FROM IDEA TO WATER

The Rosethorn Design Journey

A collaborative route from first conversation to finished craft.

1

DISCOVER

Your aims, preferred use, vessel relationship and priorities.

2

DEFINE

Size, layout, access, services, storage, finishes and budget.

3

DESIGN

Develop a coherent concept around movement, function and flexibility.

4

BUILD

Fabricate and fit out with regular communication through key stages.

5

DELIVER

Prepare the finished butty for its next chapter on the waterways.

BUILT BY ROSETHORN

Case Study: Pandora's Box

A compact trading butty created to give an established floating business more room.





THE BRIEF

The owners traded unusual gifts and art from the 50ft narrowboat Imogen. More selling and storage space was needed while retaining the mobility and identity of the existing business.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Existing craft 50ft narrowboat
Rosethorn butty 14ft
Primary use Floating retail
Trading model Canal festivals

THE ROSETHORN SOLUTION

A bespoke 14ft butty named Pandora's Box, fitted out by Rosethorn to create a distinctive extension to the owners' floating retail operation.

CHOOSE A STARTING POINT

Four Concepts. One Bespoke Approach.

Planning concepts rather than fixed models. Final dimensions and specification are agreed through consultation.



TRADER 14

Compact retail, stock or serving space



OFFICE 20

Focused workspace, studio or consultation room



WORKSHOP 20

Tools, benches and secure equipment storage



FAMILY 25

Guest room, utility zone or family extension

*Images shown are conceptual for idea purposes only

ROSETHORN BUILDS BESPOKE BUTTIES UP TO 45FT

DESIGN WORKSHEET

Sketch Your Floating Space

Use this page to capture the problem, priorities and practical features for an initial conversation.

1. PRIMARY PURPOSE What should the butty help you do?

2. PREFERRED SIZE Approximate length and relationship to the main craft.

3. ESSENTIAL FEATURES Furniture, stock, tools, services, storage, windows and access.

4. USERS Who will use the space, how often and in what seasons?

5. STYLE AND FINISH Traditional, contemporary, commercial, practical or premium.

6. LOCATION AND DELIVERY Current waterway, marina or intended launch point.

THE ONE-SENTENCE BRIEF

“I need a butty that…”

NEXT STEP

Turn Your Idea Into a Brief

Share the worksheet, browse Rosethorn projects and book a free design conversation.

START YOUR PROJECT

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