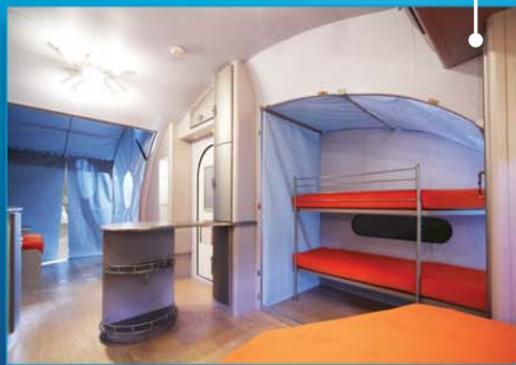




Caravan of the Future



This year is the centenary of the Caravan Club. As part of the celebrations the Club unveiled a prototype of the winning design in the Caravan of the Future – Design Concept Competition at the National Boat, Caravan and Outdoor Show in February.

The build-up

In 2005 the Caravan Club invited designers, engineers, caravan fans and enthusiasts to enter a unique competition. The response was strong with people from all walks of life submitting designs for their interpretation of the Caravan of the Future. Their designs took into account the changing ways in which leisure time is enjoyed and the availability of new technologies and materials. Over 300 entries were submitted from individuals, teams, design students, schools, architects and interior designers. The overall standard was high with some including technical specifications, models and video animations, whilst one entry arrived literally 'on the back of an envelope'.

The judging panel consisted of: The Caravan Club's Technical Committee Chairman Ted Holt, designer Wayne Hemingway, The National Caravan Council's former Director General Graham Beacon, Professor Robert Kronenburg who holds the Chair of Architecture at Liverpool University and Jason Rowe the Chief Materials Engineer from Lotus Engineering.

The winners

The winning design was by Bristol-based design duo Paul Burchill (Stride Treglown architects) and Herve? Delaby, a freelance industrial and interior designer, who shared the £20,000 first prize. Their winning design named 'Cargo S' is stylish and modern with carefully thought-out elements that enable users to make the most of a caravanning holiday. Paul designed the futuristic but highly functional interior and Herve? designed the innovative and eye-catching vehicle exterior. The main features of the winning design are:

- the good use of the pitch area without the need for an awning
- light and airy with the rear terrace open
- good towing dynamics
- accessibility of all facilities for transit and overnight stops
- effective use of alternative materials and production methods.

The prototype was built by Bailey of Bristol; currently the UK's best-selling brand accounting for one in three new caravan sales. Fourteen other entrants were awarded cash prizes for their exceptional competition submissions or for design elements that were judged to be noteworthy.

Pupils from Heathbrook Primary School in London and Tiverton High School in Devon were awarded special merit prizes. The Heathbrook Primary School entry was the result of a project run by Our Hut, a small voluntary organisation set up to teach primary school children about architecture and design and funded by Lambeth Endowed Charities. The project was run over two days in two Year 5 classes and workshops began with a reading of Toad's eulogy in Kenneth Grahame's 'Wind in the Willows', looking at inspiring images and visiting a motor home parked in the playground. The pupils worked in small groups to develop their ideas and made models which show a section of the caravan design, allowing interior details to be placed within the overall exterior shape. The next generation of caravan users were concerned with making their designs environmentally friendly; using funky colours and materials on the outside as well as the interior; incorporating neat space-saving ideas; comfort; and entertainment systems. The children were taken on a trip to the Design Museum with their prize money.

Tiverton High School is in the heart of picturesque Devon and many pupils and their families are caravanners themselves or rely on tourism for a living - some run Certificated Locations in the region. The starting point was a quest to design caravans that are more interesting to look at and more inviting, as caravans get such a bad press for being slow and clogging up the roadways. The design and technology department felt that the task fitted well with the scheme of work and encouraged innovative thinking. About sixty pupils took part.

