

DEN BUILDING

CREATING IMAGINATIVE SPACES
USING ALMOST ANYTHING

JANE HEWITT & CATHY CROSS



Crown House Publishing Limited

www.crownhouse.co.uk

Published by
Crown House Publishing
Crown Buildings, Bancyfelin, Carmarthen, Wales, SA33 5ND, UK
www.crownhouse.co.uk
and
Crown House Publishing Company LLC
6 Trowbridge Drive, Suite 5, Bethel, CT 06801-2858, USA
www.crownhousepublishing.com

© Jane Hewitt and Cathy Cross, 2016

The right of Jane Hewitt and Cathy Cross to be identified as the authors
of this work has been asserted by them in accordance with the Copyright,
Designs and Patents Act 1988.

First published 2016

p. 131 (igloo den) – photos by kind permission of Jeni Johnson,
Worsbrough Common Primary School, Barnsley.
pp. 67–69 (miniature town) – photos by kind permission of Andy Harris.

All rights reserved. Except as permitted under current Legislation no part of this
work may be photocopied, stored in a retrieval system, published, performed in
public, adapted, broadcast, transmitted, recorded or reproduced in any form or by
any means, without the prior permission of the copyright owners. Enquiries should
be addressed to Crown House Publishing.

British Library of Cataloguing-in-Publication Data
A catalogue entry for this book is available from the British Library.

Print ISBN 978-184590952-9
Mobi ISBN 978-178583036-5
ePub ISBN 978-178583037-2
ePDF ISBN 978-178583038-9

LCCN 2015953358

Printed and bound in the UK by
Gomer Press, Llandysul, Ceredigion

CONTENTS

Getting started	1
Resources	5
Project 1 Sketchbook	13

CARDBOARD BOX DENS **15**

Project 2 Castle den	21
Project 3 Spy den	25
Project 4 Nature den	31
Project 5 Rocket den	35
Project 6 Famous den	43
Project 7 Shop den	45
Project 8 Wearable den	47
Project 9 Thinking outside the box	49
Project 10 Open the box	55
Project 11 Miniature dens	61
Project 12 Miniature town	67

TABLE DENS **71**

Project 13 Spooky table den	75
Project 14 White table den	79

INDOOR DENS 81

Project 15	Living room den	83
Project 16	Paddling pool den	85
Project 17	Fashion den	89
Project 18	Duvet dens	91
Project 19	Sleepover den	97
Project 20	Dens without walls	99

OUTDOOR DENS 105

Project 21	Tepee dens	107
Project 22	Open-air den	113
Project 23	Whirligig den	119
Project 24	Umbrella den	121
Project 25	Trampoline den	125
Project 26	Yard den	127

EXTREME DENS 129

Project 27	Extreme dens	131
------------	--------------------	-----

Acknowledgements	137
------------------------	-----

GETTING STARTED

Welcome all new den builders!

Building dens is really easy when you know how. It doesn't cost lots of money – you can use items that are readily available around your house (check with grown-ups first though – they can become quite grumpy if you cut up their best duvet cover to make a roof for your den!).

You can create dens on your own or with groups of friends. Grown-ups will be desperate to get involved – it's up to you if you let them join in or not. (Sometimes they can be really helpful!)

So what is a den? It's a space that is separate, a space that you create for yourself, a space where you can use your imagination, a space where you and your friends can play and be creative. It can be fixed or transportable, huge or miniature, indoors or outdoors – basically it can be anything that YOU want it to be.

Where could you create a den? Wander around your home to begin with and make a list in your sketchbook (see Project 1 for a description of how to make one) of all the great places you could build a den. How about underneath the stairs or the kitchen table? In the corner of your bedroom or behind the sofa?

The next step is to begin collecting den-making materials (the resources section has ideas to get you started). You will find lots of ideas in this book about what to use, how to fasten everything together as well as how to stay safe.



CARDBOARD

BOX
DENS

PROJECT 2

CASTLE DEN



YOU NEED

Large cardboard box

Scissors (or a grown-up with a craft knife)

Thick marker pen

Ball of string

Something to make a hole with

Take a large cardboard box and remove the lid section. Mark and cut out the turrets along the top of the box.



REMEMBER

If you are using a sharp cutting tool you must get a grown-up to help you.

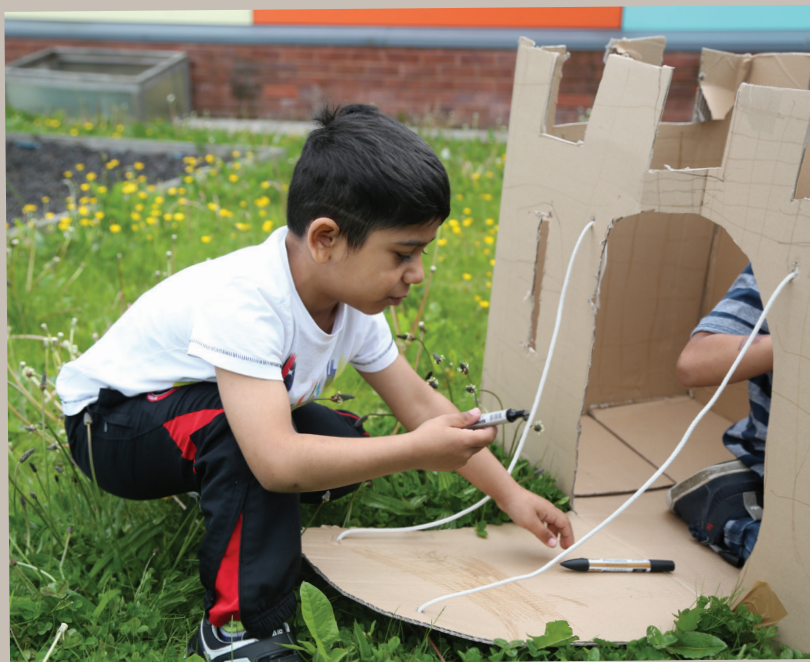
Now cut out two slits for windows. Remember, you only need thin slits in your castle as these were used by archers to fire arrows through, which is why they were so narrow!



Next, cut out a door shape but make sure that you leave it fastened at the bottom – this will be your drawbridge. Make two holes in the wall of the box and two in your door. Thread your string through and tie a knot at each end.



Finally, decorate the walls of your castle with your marker pen.
What sort of stones do you think would be used to build a castle?



Will your castle have a moat? A flag? Extra towers? A warning sign for intruders?

And where will you position your castle so that it will be easy to defend from attackers?

Could you use the leftover cardboard to make costumes, crowns or swords that you can decorate?

How could you and your friends make an even bigger castle next time?

SO WHAT IS A DEN?

It's a space that you create for yourself, a space where you can use your imagination, a space where you and your friends can play and be creative.

Building dens is really easy when you know how. It doesn't cost lots of money – you can use items that are readily available around your house – but you can have hours of fun. Really, a den can be anything that you want it to be ...



ARE YOU READY TO GET DEN BUILDING?

"Not just a how-to book, not just a set of projects for a rainy day; it's a starting place for a lifetime of exploration and ideas, creativity and fun."

Leah Moore, writer

"I love the way it is written specifically for children, young people and the young at heart!"

Jan Carlyle, director, Autumn Live

"A sumptuous book, oozing with imaginative ideas and inspiration for den building for all ages."

Leigh Chalmers, nursery manager and parent

"I really love this book! ... It's colourful, it has a great layout and most importantly inspires you to make things."

Michelle Clarke-Stables, artist

"A must for homes and classrooms. With an abundance of great photos, this book is easy to dip into and will always spark ideas. Let's get den building!"

Lisa Lillywhite, The Smart Happy Project

Cathy Cross trained in theatre design and loves being creative and making things. Cathy is now a professional den maker and runs workshops all over the UK and in international schools across the world! She devised the projects in this book.

Jane Hewitt was a teacher for 30 years. Jane still loves learning, discovering new ideas and photography and is rarely found without a camera around her neck! She took the photos in this book.



www.crownhouse.co.uk

ISBN: 978-184590952-9



9 781845 909529

Children's and teenage general non-fiction Handicrafts