



From a distance, it looks like a new barn has been built at a Silkstone farm. But the building is soon to be a home for Philip and Carolyn Charlesworth, as Adam Civico reports.



# Home is where the barn is

**A**t first glance, it appears that a new barn has been erected at Broad Close Farm in Silkstone.

But it is not an agricultural building. The 'barn' is home to farmer Philip Charlesworth and his wife Carolyn.

They needed a second dwelling so farm work could be more easily managed and a few months ago independent-minded Philip set about sketching out a building.

He says: "I hadn't a clue. I thought I could design a building myself and all I needed was a set square. I would have drawn a square and put a roof on it."

Thankfully, before he did that, Philip spoke to an old friend, Roger Brown, whose son Andrew is an award-winning architect. He stepped in, bringing a keen eye for design, as well as knowledge about the latest energy-saving techniques.

Philip admits: "I have been shown the error of my ways and I am absolutely delighted I have. Andrew



Philip Charlesworth and his grandson Brook, nine, with architect Andrew Brown who designed the cedar-clad 'barn'.

has put so much into this. It's space-age technology as far as I'm concerned and it is everything we didn't know we wanted."

Left to his own devices, Philip may have come up with a brick and mortar box but Andrew's approach was rather more creative. While utilitarian farm buildings may not seem inspirational it was those designs which he latched on to as a principle for the house.

He says: "The brief itself was for a simple building with two bedrooms, study and kitchen-diner. The idea was

to keep it within the cluster of the farm and to lose as little of possible the field where it is built.

"It can be viewed from the house up the hill so part of my concept was to pick up on the barn's features - roofs, high-level timber cladding, low level masonry. It was about taking those principles and turning them into a modern house.

"The masonry became random-coursed sandstone and the cheap barn cladding became nice tongue and grooved cedar cladding.

"I think Philip liked the idea. He



Barn again: The bungalow at Broad Close Farm, Silkstone, above, and Philip Charlesworth in the sitting room.

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seen some of my other buildings and I think he was quite scared but when I came up with the sketches he was pleased it was a simple building. The idea was it was something they could relate to and would fit in."

Inside it is simple, bright and fresh, with neutral floor tiles and oak doors and skirting. While floor dimensions are small the lofted ceilings and expanses of glass give an unexpected feeling of spaciousness. It's not cavernous but nor does it feel compact.

Clever use of space aside, it is not the interior of the building that is

particularly noteworthy, but the hidden 'green' measures that mean its carbon-footprint is negligible.

Underground, a 200metre coil filled with water acts as a ground source heat pump.

In essence, it pulls latent energy from the earth and converts it into heat which is then used in the under-floor heating system.

The timber frame building is packed with insulation and the south facade is predominantly glazed, which will generate heat in the winter.

Underground, a thick concrete 'pad' acts as a thermal mass to help keep

things cool in summer and warm in winter.

And if all else fails there always the log burning stove to heat the house (it's fuelled by logs from the Charlesworth's wood nearby). It's what Philip calls his 'en suite' fuel. And like ground heat that warms his home, it's free.

*Architect: Andrew Brown, director of designSpace Architecture. Building area: 100sqm. Construction period: Eight months. Contractor: Earledge Developments, Cawthorne. Building budget: £100,000*