



Living in a box is not an activity confined to Japan, during the last few years we have seen Container City in London's Docklands rise up to provide Studios for artists and start-up businesses. The second phase of the development was built in 2002 and provided 22 studios over five floors, all connected with lifts and bridges.



Container City in London was the brainchild of Eric Reynolds who claimed his inspiration came from a visit to Rotterdam where converted containers were in use as recording studios.

And that's not all, in Lelystad in the Netherlands, one company specializes in building the "Space Box". Space Boxes are compact, composite housing units which are "stacked" together to create temporary housing for students.

Manchester saw the plans for its 'Kraspad' micro-living spaces ditched last year when planners threw out the application. Each flat was to be no bigger than 6m x 5m. Dubbed "Posh dosshouses" by one councillor, over 70 had been sold off-plan before planners declared that they were not 'right' for the city's image.

Containers are however in successful use at Cove Park set in the stunning Argyll countryside where three re-cycled containers provide a double bedroom, bathroom and kitchen area with a balcony giving spectacular views over the loch.



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