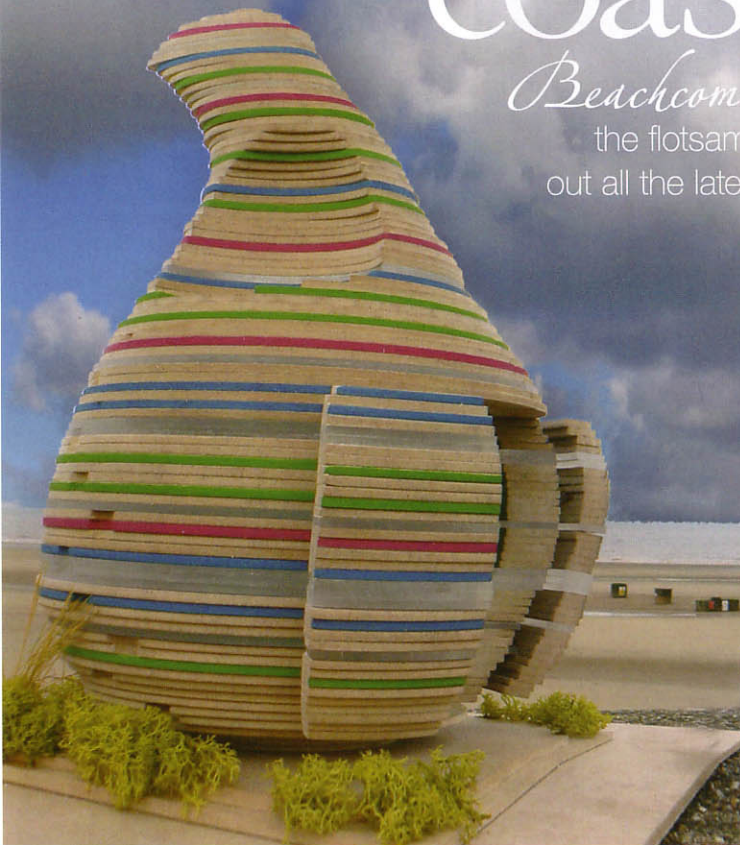


coastNEWS

Beachcomber sorts through
the flotsam and jetsam to winkle
out all the latest seaside treasures



GIMME SHELTER

Sometimes, *Beachcomber* hears a tiny voice of doubt in her head. Aren't beach huts simply overpriced sheds, it whispers? Really, what is all the fuss about? So there was a huge sigh of relief in Beachcomber Chalet when news arrived of an exhibition restoring the hut to British holiday icon status. Artist Michael Trainor asked international artists and architects to rethink this ever-so-British building and drag it into the modern age. He was deluged with entries and the winners (including *Jabba the Hut*, above) have been built on a stretch of the Lincolnshire coast near Mablethorpe – on 22-23 September, the huts are all open for inspection. Expect playful and inventive but also practical: next year, they're available for hire. Hoorah for the beach hut! Long may it prosper!

Bathing Beauties Beach Hut Festival, Mablethorpe to Chapel St Leonards, Lincs (01529 308710, www.bathingbeauties.org.uk).

★ **BEACHCOMBER** is a big fan of the *VW camper van* (see *On Top of the World* in this issue for more), so **IMAGINE THE DELIGHT** in finding a company that not only hires them for trips around the Isle of Wight, but kits them out in **Cath Kidston finery** and stocks them with Victoria sponges. No more ripped Formica for us! (01983 852089, www.isleofwightcampers.co.uk)

