Outdoor Living

THE ART OF THE GARDEN

NORTH SEATTLE
ArtWalk inspires

QUEEN ANNE
Sensational showcase

WHIDBEY ISLAND
Choreographed chaos

MONROE
Magic in the forest

BAINBRIDGE
Island impressions
Sweetwater Cabana

Have a banana in a cabana

DON'T NEED ANOTHER HOUSE around your place? Perhaps a cabana is just the thing for watching the natural world go by.

Sweetwater Bungalows of Truckee, Calif., introduces the new Sweetwater Cabana, the ultimate outdoor daybed. The inspiration here is from the simple Indonesian pavilions called bales and the comfortable daybeds in Hawaii called Hikie'es. Put this little sanctuary by the pool, in the garden, on a deck or patio. Or use it as a hot-tub pavilion. The cabana is handcrafted from sustainable Indonesian hardwood with a Sunbrella fabric top. The cabana prices out at $5,200. The mattress and slipcover are sold separately, with an average price of $500.

A bungalow to go

IF YOU'RE THE TYPE who likes to be indoors even in the out-of-doors, you might pause to ponder the actual bungalows from that same bunch at Sweetwater Bungalows. Yurts are so yesterday, you know.

The bungalows are weathertight tent-cabin kits but elevated to practically new-home status with enamel windows and storm doors. Throw in a double French door or windows with grids, if it strikes your fancy. All you add is labor. The bungalows combine sturdiness with a wood frame and lightness with fabric walls (they appear to glow at night). The walls of the bungalow shell and rain fly are 10-ounce laminated polyester-vinyl; the shell canvas ceiling, 10-ounce cotton duck.

They were inspired by the more rustic wall tents, wood-frame tents and platform tents still used in many national parks, such as Yosemite. But heck, you could use one as a shelter for meditation or yoga, or as a studio or guest cottage.

Cost starts at $25 per square foot, not including platform. The Sonoma, for example, runs $4,100 for the 10-by-12-foot shelter. The 14-by-20 Homestead is $6,900 with a double French door and three windows. Check them out at www.sweetwaterbungalows.com or call 1-800-587-5054.

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