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Peek Inside an Architecture Studio's Treehouse Hideout

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Invisible Studio is not your ordinary architecture firm. They do not seek to design large iconic structures to perfect the postcard skylines of our cities or build lavish estates for upper class elites. Piers Taylor, the studio's enigmatic founder, believes that "design is not a luxury add on, but a process by which the most is extracted from the least through intelligent and clever thinking." The recent completion of a new design studio to house Taylor and his team's budding operation is an embodiment of the firm's low-tech, resource-efficient approach.

The 600-square foot studio is in a forest near Bath, UK and may be more aptly described as a designer's hermitage. Built for £15,000 (about $25,000 USD), including all labor and materials, Invisible Studio's new headquarters was a proof-of-concept project for the team. It was built by an ad hoc crew comprised of Taylor's studio team and assorted friends and neighbors, none of whom had any prior construction experience. "The project was an exercise in establishing a system of building that could be constructed by unskilled labour, with minimal drawings, allowing ad hoc discoveries and improvisation to be embraced, and the tyranny of predetermined design to be escaped," writes Taylor.