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The most artfully designed dog kennels — from spaceships to antiques that belonged to French royalty

From an antique dog bed that could've been Marie Antoinette's, to the very best in 'Barkitecture'.



BY LOTTE BRUNDLE, CARLA PASSINO PUBLISHED 9 HOURS AGO

The 'room' is a gem of Louis XVI architecture, a triumph of gilded beech, rich velvet upholstery and pineapple finials fringing an exquisite dome. It is not, however, a miniature boudoir, but a *maison de chien* — a glorified dog bed from about 1775.



(Image credit: MALLETT ANTIQUES)

Which pampered pooch rested its paws on the plump cushion? The bed is very similar to another, now at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, which furniture-maker Claude I Sené made for Marie Antoinette to house her beloved poodle, Pompon. Might this, too, have once been hers — or rather, Pompon's? The *maison de chien* will be on offer with Mallett at the [Treasure House Fair](#), London. This year's edition of the Treasure House Fair will run until June 30.

If antique dog beds aren't your style, one need only look to 'Barkitecture', the kennel design competition that took place at Goodwoof earlier this year.

With entries auctioned by Bonhams on behalf of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, the highly anticipated competition was, this year, hosted by Kevin McCloud, which pretty much tells you all you need to know about it.

The theme for 2026 was 'Dogs in Space', a perfect choice when it comes to making spaces which will be occupied by dogs, you could argue. The winner was HPW Architecture, with 'Star Paws Sleeping Module'.

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Carla Passino



Carla must be the only Italian that finds the English weather more congenial than her native country's sunshine. An antique herself, she became Country Life's Arts & Antiques editor in 2023 having previously covered, as a freelance journalist, heritage, conservation, history and property stories, for which she won a couple of awards. Her musical taste has never evolved past Puccini and she spends most of her time immersed in any century before the 20th.
