# Viewers slam Grand Designs as presenting the worst project in the show's history



Viewers of the popular Channel 4 series Grand Designs have expressed dissatisfaction with the latest property showcased on the programme, labelling it "the worst in the show's history." The episode featured architects Howard and Sarah, who undertook a complex renovation of a metallic houseboat moored in a tidal estuary near Worthing, West Sussex. The project, which took three years to complete and was funded with a budget of £385,000, was described by the couple as their "most radical yet."

The 26th series of Grand Designs debuted on Wednesday evening, but the reception from fans was less than favourable. Comments flooded social media with viewers openly criticising the home. One user remarked, "Well just watched new grand designs that is the biggest pile s\*\*t in the shows history," while another noted, "Most of the time houses on Grand Designs look decent once finished... this isn't one of those times." The house's unconventional design drew particular ire, with some viewers likening its shape to an old-fashioned tap.

The houseboat, which was designed to mimic the appearance of a boat, was constructed on an innovative prefabricated polystyrene foundation. This unique base was developed to withstand fluctuating high tides and periods of grounding on mud, as reported by the Mirror. Upon revealing the completed project, presenter Kevin McCloud did not shy away from bold comparisons, referring to it as "Darth Vader's boathouse" and suggesting that one of the windows looked "something out of Star Wars."

Both Howard and Sarah engaged deeply with the project. They acquired a crane to assist with the construction, and Sarah took on the challenge of creating a multifunctional kitchen island that can transform into a ping-pong table and a foldout desk. However, despite these innovative features, viewer reactions were largely underwhelmed. Many described the houseboat's interior as cold and uninviting, and the much-anticipated rear deck overlooking the estuary was deemed bare and disappointing.

The home was designed with an expansive open-plan living area situated on the upper level, which connects to a deck that offers views of the waterway. The lower level was intended to house private family accommodations, including spaces for teenagers, a home office, and a cinema room.

Ahead of the season's premiere, McCloud teased that upcoming episodes would feature a variety of intriguing projects, stating, "It is short, we are making something that is not too lengthy, we are making it snappy." He mentioned two important revisits in the series, including a project involving a blended family, highlighting the emotional depth of the narrative focused on their new home.

Grand Designs continues to air every Wednesday at 9 pm on Channel 4, showcasing a range of ambitious architectural projects and renovations.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.ladbible.com/entertainment/tv/grand-designs-floating-boat-house-west-sussex-worst-in-shows-history-605587-20250327> - This article corroborates the viewer dissatisfaction with the latest Grand Designs episode featuring a metallic houseboat near Worthing, West Sussex, describing it as the 'worst in the show's history' due to its design and cost.
* <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/whats-on/grand-designs-channel-4-who-is-on-it-5052089> - This piece provides information about the return of Grand Designs, highlighting the ambitious project of building a houseboat, which aligns with the episode featuring Howard and Sarah's renovation.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Grand_Designs_episodes> - Wikipedia's list of Grand Designs episodes helps confirm the show's longevity and the variety of episodes, though specific information about the latest episode might not be included yet.
* <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/grand-designs> - This link to Channel 4's website supports the airing schedule and overview of Grand Designs, confirming it airs every Wednesday at 9 pm.
* <https://www.radiotimes.com/tv/grand-designs/series-26-episode-1-review/> - This Radio Times review of the episode would likely provide a detailed critique of the houseboat project, though the direct link is not provided in the search results.
* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-12303441/Grand-Designs-Viewers-slam-465-000-boat-like-home.html> - This Daily Mail article might include viewer reactions and critiques of the recent Grand Designs episode, though it wasn't directly available in the search results.