

Christie Swallow
Avitecture
Building for Birds



Avitecture Addresses the Bird Housing Crisis by creating sustainable avian architectures.

The context

Not all birds can make their own nests, and rely on “cavities” - hollow spaces - to nest and lay eggs. In the UK, and particularly in London, there is a shortage of cavity nesting spaces. This affects birds including Swifts, Starlings Robins, Wrens, Tits, Parakeets, and Owls.

I call this the **Bird Housing Crisis**

Residency at Young V&A

I am currently in residence as the Young V&A's Designer in the Shed. Working from the Museum's unique, public facing studio, “The Shed” I run weekly workshops for ideating birdhouses, as well as workshop to create textile birdhouses.

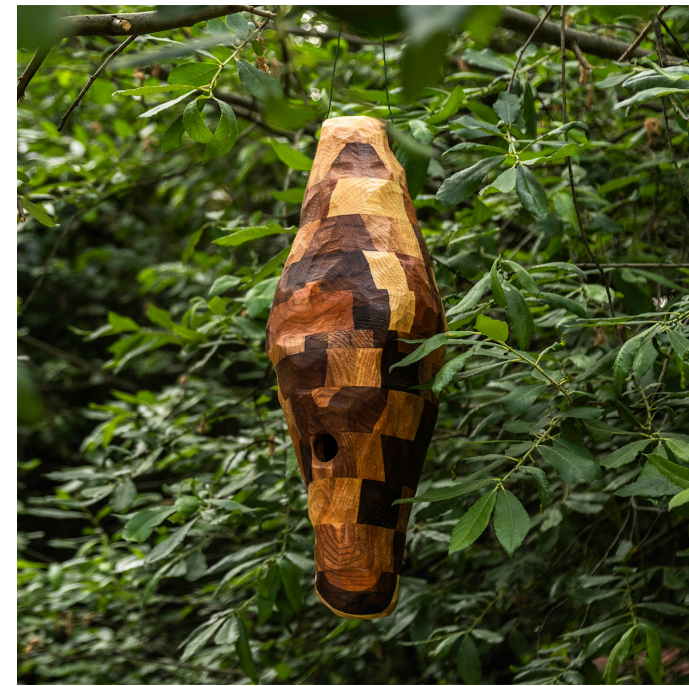
Collaboration is core to my process. For Wooden birdhousing, I work with my dad, a carpenter. Our process started with the first round of Avitectures, which we named Birdhives (as published in the Financial Times).



The Methodology

Each design is informed by research into specific species' requirements (hole size, thermal qualities, materials/finishes, dimensions) Each house is created with sustainable and recycled materials, for example using plywood sourced from de-installed exhibitions.

Climate resilience is also core to my approach. Birds are Endothermic, and rising temperatures threaten their ability to survive and breed. Just as with human housing, we need to design Bird Housing for wildly fluctuating temperatures.



Giving a bird house a home

I'm looking to collaborate with parks, gardens and greenspaces to help fix the bird housing crisis. I've previously installed housing at the Design Museum, Outhouse Gallery and am looking for future sites. Avitectures can be crafted to meet specific requirements of your site!

I'm currently looking for partnering sites across London. Get in touch at **Hello@Christie.Studio**, Instagram @Christie.wip or Whatsapp +447898667057

