CASE STUDY

Mr & Mrs Roberts, Norway

SOLARDOME®
OUTDOOR LIVING

At a glance

Location
Norway

The challenge
To create a space to grow and relax in on an island exposed to the elements in Norway.

The solution
SOLARDOME® Pod
Self-assembly

Dome specification

Diameter	3.62m / 11’10”
Height	2.22m / 7’4”
Area	8.8m^2 / 95ft^2

Mr & Mrs Roberts chose to self-build a SOLARDOME® Pod on their Norwegian island to provide a space to grow and to gaze up at the night sky.

Mr & Mrs Roberts, originally from the UK, moved to Norway about 20 years ago and now live in town with a very small garden. With little growing space at home, Mrs Roberts describes herself as a frustrated gardener. Fortunately, they also have a larger garden on their own island. Only accessible by boat, the island could be a used for growing, however, much of what can be grown there often gets eaten by deer and moose.

They first saw a solution for their island retreat when they saw a geodesic dome on a gardening programme. They instantly loved the idea and while on holiday in the UK arranged a visit to the Solardome showroom in Southampton.

Immediately impressed by the look and quality of the domes, they subsequently chose a SOLARDOME® Pod to provide their much-wanted island growing space.

> “It is excellent and very well made; precision made”

For more details, please contact Solardome Industries Limited
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Why a SOLARDOME® Pod?

The Roberts' wanted to build the dome themselves, and so shipping, construction and quality were all key factors for them. Being in such an extreme environment, they wanted to be sure their investment in time and money was going to be worthwhile.

The SOLARDOME® Pod gave them this reassurance, and was also easily transportable to their island getaway. Being the smallest dome in the range, it is also the simplest to self-build having only two different sizes of glass and struts.

Piece by piece by boat

Looking back on the project they were about to undertake, Mrs Roberts commented: "We really liked it, but was it a crazy thing to do? – to ship it out to Norway, transport it to the dock in their Mini car, take it piece by piece by boat, and carry it across the rocks to where we wanted to build it".

Solardome managed the whole shipping process for them: "Delivery of the dome was absolutely seamless, and all the paperwork was handled. It was all easily done and they delivered it efficiently to our house in a tidy crate."

Self-assembly

With the exception of the door all the parts were small enough to be transported in their Mini which made it convenient for the Roberts' to do most of the work themselves: "Because it's made in small sections, it was easy to manoeuvre and carry."

The SOLARDOME® Pod is a freestanding structure and does not need substantial foundations, and the Roberts' made use of the natural materials around them to complete their base: "We used shell sand from the beach which gave a lovely level base, and made a ring foundation from granite sets. Bolted to the rock it wasn't going anywhere."

Provided with a comprehensive set of instructions, it took the two of them less than a day to put the frame together.

"We got the frame up in a couple of hours; every single piece of glass went in perfectly. It was ten times easier than I thought it was going to be. It all went together beautifully."

The Robert's really appreciate the dome's design compared to a traditional greenhouse. To have a structure which fits in with their natural and untouched environment really suited them: "Its organic shape blends in and disappears; you can't do that with an ordinary greenhouse. It's perfect for us" they commented.

Use

Originally chosen as a greenhouse and for the robustness of the geodesic design, the Roberts' are also enjoying their dome as a relaxing space.

"The other thing that we were really impressed with is how clear the glass always is. We like sitting up there in the evening and looking at the stars."

More information

Find out more about our glasshouses and how they can help you get the most out of your garden by calling us for a brochure now.