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# 'Shoebox homes' put squeeze on family life

ARCHITECTS have criticised the 'shameful shoebox homes' being built in Britain, saying many are just too small for family life.

The floor area of the average new three-bedroom home in Britain is 88sq m, 8sq m short of the recommended space, research by the Royal Institute of British Architects found. One-bedroom properties, at an average of 46sq m, are 4sq m smaller than the recommended size, the Case

out all over the country, depriving households of the space they need to live comfortably and cohesively. However, the Home Builders Federation said bigger homes could prove unaffordable.

Andrew Whittaker, the federation's head of planning, told the BBC that increasing standards would increase costs. 'That's going to mean houses are going to become more expensive. We're already suffering from a lack of

affordability for young people and first-time buyers,' he said. A spokesman for the Department for Communities and Local Government said: 'Developers must deliver the homes that communities need and buyers want - and that includes ensuring the homes they build meet families' needs.'

The study of three-bedroom houses was based on a sample of 3,418 homes across 71 sites in England.

By **Aidan Radhedge**

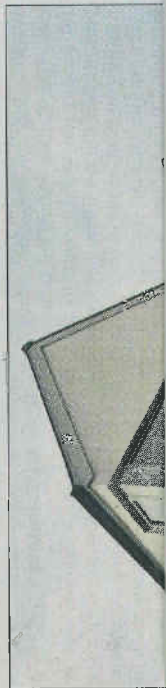
For Space study found. These dimensions would allow for only a single bed, a bedside table and a dressing table with a stool, the report said.

Riba chief executive Harry Rich said: 'Our homes should be places that enhance our lives and well-being. However, as our research confirms, thousands of cramped houses - shameful shoebox homes - are being churned

**Telling holiday**  
Nationality of people who  
about their holiday

1. Ireland
2. Spain
3. Germany
4. Sweden
5. UK
6. Norway
7. Italy
8. Denmark
9. France

Source:  
Lastminute.com



**THE LINE-UP**  
AT WESTFIELD STRATFORD CITY