



## *BIOGRAPHY OF ALEX COLE*

Alex has always felt that living spaces should go beyond their operational capacity and be the artistic interpretation of their creator, and provide both aesthetic stimulation and symbolic healing. For this reason, over the last 15 years he has pursued the art of creative three dimensional design.

Upon completion of a catering management degree from the Manchester University, Alex utilised his positions as a chef to exercise his passion in design. He particularly enjoyed setting up a café within the Manchester Craft Centre, an exhibition space and workshop studio for over 80 artists.

Alex spent well over a decade as a chef, with the latter part of his career catering outdoor events such as weddings and cricket matches in hospitality tents. Operating in the tents gave Alex an influential insight into the art of dwelling within temporary shelters.

Guided by a growing enthusiasm for shelters, Alex changed his life dramatically in 2002 by moving with his wife Selene to Wales where they lived in a tipi in a sustainable arts community ([www.coedhills.co.uk](http://www.coedhills.co.uk)). Alex focused on learning the lost skills of 2000 year-old construction: green woodwork, lime work, thatching and cob. Alex applied these techniques to create a split-wood and steam-bent yurt frame and a lime covered straw bale cottage. He also co-built a Celtic round house with a wood timber frame, daub walls and thatched roof.

Energised by the application of these timeless methods, Alex moved to Nova Scotia and became involved with the natural building community. He took a course at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design on creating three dimensional designs and experimented with several homes built of straw and clay.

Eventually he focused on the yurt, starting Little Foot Yurts with the mission to create culturally exciting and unique handmade temporary shelters. His work successfully blends the ancient green wood working techniques from Great Britain with the sacred geometry of the yurt to create steam-bent structures that are uniquely original and exceptionally strong.

Alex's search for the knowledge buried in our past has led him to create structures using only the materials that nature provides, all the while respecting nature's cycles. For example, by using coppice techniques, parts of the tree can be harvested for materials year after year, without killing the tree. It is his hope that these techniques can be used to build a more sustainable future.

*hand-made coppice wood yurts*

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