



Mirrored doors add a further dimension to the bedroom.



left
The large, wheeled cassette is removed from the corridor.

Cassette toilet and angled vanity unit in the bathroom.

the overall layout more interesting although it is not the most efficient for storage. Even so, Ivor has succeeded in getting all the required equipment, including a washing machine, into only 7ft 6in of boat length.

One item often considered essential on a residential boat but not present on *Brandywine* is a separate freezer. The reason is that Joan has had many years experience of managing a galley with just the freezer compartment of the fridge so it was deemed to be unnecessary.

In the corridors forward and aft of the galley are side doors for additional light and ventilation. These have glazed inner doors which can be closed on the windward side to allow in light but prevent draughts.

Bathroom

If you were still harbouring any second thoughts about this being a residential boat, one item in the bathroom should dispel them. Rather than the popularly specified macerator toilet, *Brandywine* has a Thetford cassette type. Live-aboard boaters often prefer these because, no matter where you might be held up in the winter, you are never faced with a holding tank that is simply not going to hold any more.

This particular model, the C4, has an electric flush, and a larger cassette that has wheels and a handle so that you can pull it rather than carry it to the sanitary station. The remaining equipment is more conventional, comprising an angled vanity unit and a bath which has a built-in shower unit to give the best of both worlds.

Bedroom

You might be prepared to put up with a slightly uncomfortable bed if you only use it while you are away cruising – but if it is your only bed, you want to make sure you can get a good night's sleep on it.

Neither Ivor or Joan is exceptionally tall so they decided that, to give themselves plenty of shoulder room, they would opt for a 4ft 6in wide extending cross bed. This contracts to two-thirds its normal length during the daytime to make a passage through the boat. At night, a flap bridges the gap between the bed base and a shallow unit against the



Ivor rallies the troops at Birmingham.

Ivor Caplan

If you are wondering why Ivor Caplan's name sounds familiar, it is probably because he has devoted much of his spare time to supporting waterways causes. He has served as chairman of his local IWA branch and the Residential Boat Owners' Association and is, at present, secretary of the RBOA and the Droitwich Canals Trust. Recently, he helped to organise the Save Our Waterways blockade in the centre of Birmingham.

Bright ideas

- ◆ A cassette toilet gives maximum flexibility for living aboard.
- ◆ A work desk slides out of the wardrobe.
- ◆ Moisture-resistant MDF avoids the best-known problem associated with that material.

