



GRANDDESIGN

MAGAZINE

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MY PERFECT HOUSE

EXTEND
YOUR
HOME
PART ONE:
CONSERVATORIES

TWO TV
FAVOURITES
REVISITED

BARN
REBORN

OUR 22
PAGE GUIDE
TO BRITAIN'S
FAVOURITE
BUILDINGS

FABULOUS
FREE-STANDING
SHELVES

NEW

WIN £2,000 WORTH OF KITCHEN AND BATHROOM THINGS

Spielberg's Long Island barn.

Cost of build: £120,000.

Style: cosy not cavernous family home complete with family furniture and paintings and a touch of stage-scenery medievalism.

Outstanding features: new, smooth geometric walls contrasted with rough textures of the barn's walls and frames. A crenellated balcony embodies the phrase 'an Englishman's home is his castle'.

Sensitivity to original building: one half of the building has been left in its original architectural state. In the other half, new elements have been painted pink, old elements red. In the architect's words: 'a house inside a barn, not a barn made into a house'.

PHEASANT BARN, FAVERSHAM KENT ↻

Architect: Duncan Chapman of Circus Architects.

Clients: Su and Paul Vaught.

Date of build: 1999-2001.

Original building: Grade-II listed threshing barn built in 1730.

Inspiration: the clients visited and were inspired by Le Corbusier's chapel at Ronchamp, France, and Zaha Hadid's fire station at Weil-am-Rhein, Germany. Chapman was struck by the way light shot through bullet-shaped holes in the original, dark, derelict building and replicated this in the new build.

Cost of build: £500,000.

Style: cool, contemporary loft-living transplanted to the country.

Outstanding features: two white mezzanine platforms containing bedroom and study space at either end; a 9m cantilevered glass table; a sunken seating area backed by a low-lying sculptural partition overlooks the estuary.

Sensitivity to original building: the exterior is almost unaltered. Permission was granted to fit domestic windows, but Circus inserted discreet openings in places that had been previously fissured. There is no sign of the conversion from outside.

QUAKER BARN, NORFOLK ↻

Architect: Hudson Architects.

Clients: Anthony Hudson and his wife Jenny Dale.

Date of build: 2001.

Original building: part of complex of farm buildings.

Inspiration: the original building and local materials.

Cost of build: £190,000.

Style: rusticity not domesticity.

Outstanding features: translucent fibreglass rain screen. Each of the two buildings is treated differently.

Sensitivity to original building: main elevation uses green oak-cladding and straw bale wall construction. Local materials (all collected within a five-mile radius) were used eg knapped flint, brick and green oak. No window openings are apparent. ▶



FINDING A BARN

The number of decrepit, ripe-for-conversion barns you see as you drive around the country is deceptive. As Jason Orme of plotfinder.net says: "Often, local planners view the conversion of a barn in a rural location in the same way they would a new development. The availability of barns for full conversion depends on geography. It is easier to find barns ready to convert in the north than in the south near to London and Birmingham."