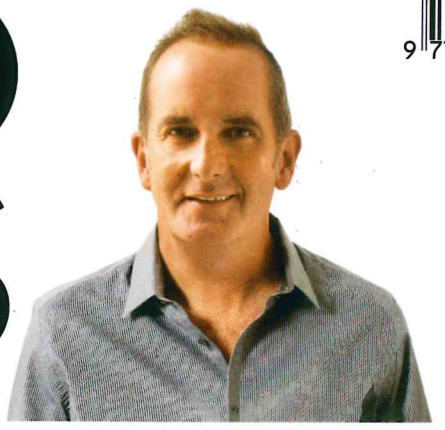
20% OFF AT DWELL ONLINE AND IN STORE DISCOUNT

GRAND DESIGNS

The official magazine of the hit TV series



9 771742 069082 02

£4.30
February 2016

TV series special issue

EXCLUSIVE CAVE HOUSE TOUR ◆ TOP 10 RENOVATIONS ◆ 2 STUNNING REVISITS

50 ICONIC DESIGNS
Must-have buys that you can afford

TIMELESS BATHROOMS
Modern twists for classic styles

BESPOKE KITCHENS
from £5,000

LATEST SHOPPING
- MODULAR SOFAS
- ON-TREND ACCESSORIES
- SLEEK MEDIA UNITS
- NEW PAINT COLOURS

164 *pages of* *inspiring* *UK homes & interiors*

10 of the best TV RENOVATIONS

***Rebuilding an old property can produce a dramatic new home. Find inspiration in our favourite transformation projects from Channel 4's* Grand Designs**

Words *Anna-Marie DeSouza*

From reviving an unloved mid-century house to breathing new life into a non-domestic property, renovating can provide you with the opportunity to create a unique home that's filled with character. And there's no shortage of prospects – there are more than 200,000 long-term empty dwellings in the UK according to the Empty Homes Agency (020 3135 0674; emptyhomes.com), and countless more conversion possibilities, such as former commercial premises, pubs and agricultural structures. While most buildings have some potential for a renovation, you must be realistic about the elements you can't change (due to planning restrictions or for structural reasons) and be courageous about what you can. Above all else, to tackle this type of development successfully you must have an open mind and some clever ideas.

Over the past 15 series, *Grand Designs* has showcased some exemplary projects, small and large, urban and rural, which reflect what can be achieved with an imaginative rebuild. To get your creative juices flowing, we've rounded up our 10 favourite schemes from the show.

1 The Apprentice Store

Proving that it's possible to put a personal stamp on a listed building, Ian and Sophie Cooper's Grade-II mill in the Somerset countryside is packed with character. The property started life as an ancillary for the adjacent DeMontalt Paper Mill, which boasted England's largest waterwheel in its 1820s heyday. Gradual additions over 200 years or so had seen the Apprentice Store evolve into four conjoined buildings. With the help of Threefold Architects (020 8969 2323; threefold architects.com) the structures have been tied together and sensitively restored, plus a structural steel walkway now links the old and new elements. Sustainability was a key consideration, with numerous measures, such as high-performance insulation of the original stonework, included to make the home as energy efficient as possible. →

Thomas Stewart

7 The Old Mill

Converting an industrial building is no mean feat, but Chris and Gill Heleine made the process look easy when working on their property near Huddersfield. The couple stripped the structure back to an empty shell, giving them a blank canvas to work with. Project-managing the build, with architectural assistance from Adam Clark of Halliday Clark (01274 589 888; hallidayclark.co.uk), their brief was for lots of space and light. The new open-plan interior is carved up by structural steelwork that criss-crosses from one side of the building to the other, leaving a central void that is bathed in light from the new windows in the roof. The couple's favourite element is the custom-made staircase, which they designed themselves – it leads up to three bedrooms and an open office space, with a store room in the pitched roof.

8 The Artists' Barn

Agricultural conversions are as popular as ever, so any potential project is a coveted find. When Ben Coode-Adams and Freddie Robins were presented with the opportunity to revive a huge, sixteenth-century, Grade-II-listed barn and create a family home and workspace, they jumped at the chance. The property's pared-down exterior is reflected in the stripped-back interior finish, punctuated by the exposed timber skeleton. Hudson Architects (01603 766 220; hudsonarchitects.co.uk) designed the striking mesh roof to conceal large skylights, since planning restrictions didn't allow visible ones. Gaps in the timber frame were filled with plywood and strips of alder. A major consideration was how to heat and light the vast space efficiently; Gutex insulating wood fibreboards were fitted to the walls and a large biomass boiler supplies underfloor heating and hot water. The lights are all LEDs and those hanging from the roof are specially designed for high-ceilinged homes. →

Jefferson Smith; Rachael Smith