

Ahead of

When it comes to this highly original holiday home almost everything is in the round

the curve



Surveyor Steve Roberts and his wife Natalie knew their dream property presented a conundrum, specifically an absence of straight walls. However, they have quite literally risen to the challenge restoring a 1891 windmill, if not to its former working glory, then modifying its use to fashion an intriguing, high spec holiday home.

Work started in 2014 and was completed in October last year with the Roberts asking friends to stay and test out their adults only holiday home.

"The feedback has been very good and helpful," says Natalie who is clearly thrilled with how the building has been transformed.

The Roberts, along with Natalie's mum Jean, saw and acted on an advert for the windmill while staying in Bury St Edmunds over a Christmas market weekend.

Wanting to go with the building's curves Natalie has had to come up with some solutions to problems that might be quickly solved in homes with regular dimensions.

For instance the super kingsize beds have rounded edges and radiators are vertical not horizontal. The television had, of course, to be a curved screen.

There is attention to detail everywhere from the DeLonghi

white Brillante kettle and toaster plus Nespresso coffee machine and AEG kitchen appliances, to Laura Ashley cushions and Elemis toiletries. Natalie, whose background is in training and the beauty industry, likes textures and surfaces too.

"I wanted a quite neutral palette as far as colours go so that I could refresh or tweak the look according to changes in fashion."

There are lots of clever touches inside but for passers by on the A1141 Bury to Lavenham road it's the top of the windmill that catches the eye, namely the zinc roof. Part of the wooden rib structure which forms the inside of the dome is from a Finnish company, Kerto, and it was designed and

manufactured in the UK.

"Some people even stop their cars and come in and have a look," says Natalie. Indeed the top of the windmill is the icing on this architectural cake.

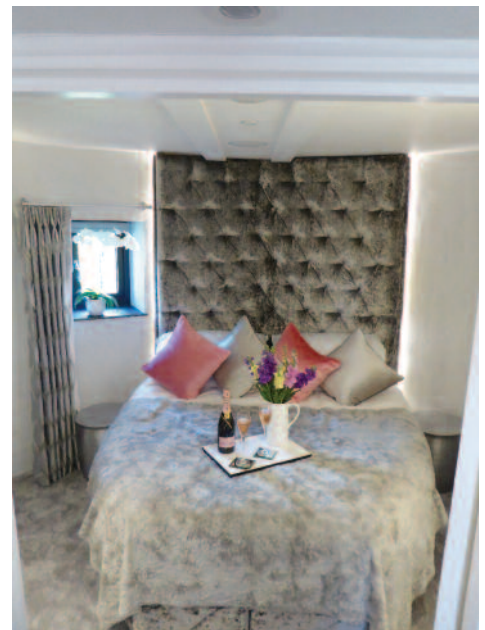
There's a balcony with seating allowing guests to take in majestic views of the countryside.

The structure has won a National Roofing accolade and the Roberts have learnt it has been shortlisted in the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) awards as well as a place in the finals of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors East of England awards for Tourism and Leisure.

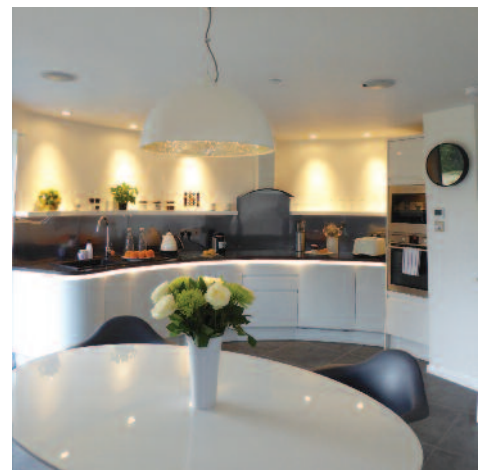
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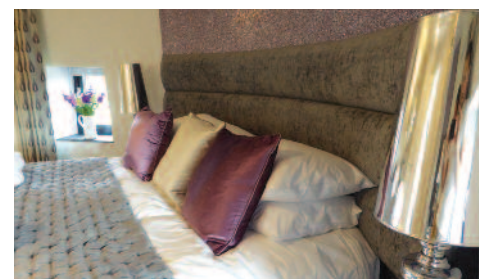
Natalie and Steve Roberts



Soft furnishings and welcoming champagne in a bedroom



The cleverly thought out kitchen on the ground floor and below, a bedroom with a twinkly panel above the bed



The sand coloured bathroom



Room at the top - with stunning views