

## HOUSE PROUD



THE MODERN HOUSE


**RURAL HIDEAWAY**  
 Richard Found in his ultra-modern study, left

remain the most dominant feature, so we had to design the extension so as never to be able to see the whole thing at once," explains Found. It took two years of planning negotiations and a two-year build to complete, including a four-month excavation and attempts to pour concrete at sub-zero temperatures. But step inside, and you'll see why he describes the 5,000 sq ft space as "the Ibiza of the Cotswolds".

Separated from the low-ceilinged, cosy cottage with glass, the interior is a pristine, peaceful geometric space with an abundance of natural daylight. Found has been sparing and selective with the materials used, opting for floor-to-ceiling fair-faced concrete and glass skylights throughout, and glacier white Corian for the bathrooms. "I became enamoured with the tone of this concrete, which marries wonderfully with the original Cotswolds stone," he says. "Certain concretes are too severe, grey, dark and domineering, but this to me is far easier on the eye and sympathetic to the cottage."

The light-filled, expansive living room (where the concrete floor frequently serves as a dance floor) is immersed in nature: a 75ft-long structural glass wall with a cantilevered corner allows for uninterrupted vistas of the surrounding woodland and the lake. "The view was so important to me. I didn't want to have any disruptions to it, and I wanted this space to be as uncluttered as possible, so the focus could be on nature during the day and then on the roaring fire at night," says Found, who uses the television-free space to spend quality time with his children Olivia, 17, and Oscar, 11.

The property has six bedrooms; those in the contemporary side of the

house have floor-to-ceiling glass doors that slide away, opening them up to the morning sun. While many delight in this, others prefer the cosiness of the cottage. "Often, families prefer to stay in the cottage because they have their own bathroom, kitchen and living room, and can feel at once part of the house, but separate." The property, which hosts 12, is available via Unique Home Stays from £6,150 per week.

"The different scales provide contrast," adds Found. "You can rotate around the spaces, which can be slowly revealed to offer different experiences and to change the mood, whether it's aperitifs on the roof terrace or cocooning yourself in the intimacy of the cottage to play cards." As well as finding the sweet spot between traditional and modern design, Found and his wife, art collector Jane Suitor, are back-and-forth with each other when it comes to dressing the house - treading the line between using it as a canvas for her art collection while maintaining Found's preference for uncluttered simplicity.

So far, the pair have settled on a Nick Goss in the cottage and three Eddie Peake paintings in the master bedroom. "I was away for a weekend recently and my wife hung a painting, which to me, unsettles the whole space: suddenly you end up looking at a piece of art rather than the view," he says. "I may take it back down to rebalance the room - hopefully she won't read this..."

## Welcome to 'the Ibiza of the Cotswolds'

**Madeleine Howell**  
*meets the architect who gave a Grade II listed, 18th-century cottage a radical extension*

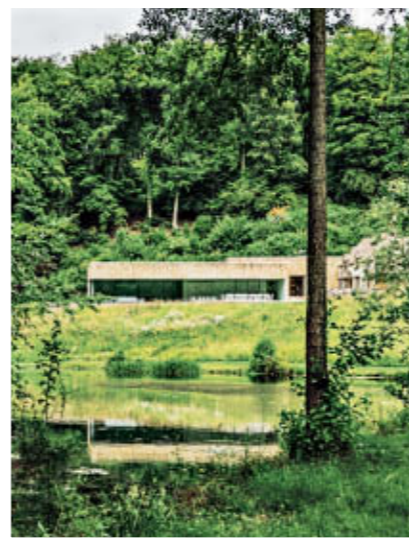
**W**hen architect Richard Found discovered the dream plot on which to build his serene contemporary retreat overlooking a lake, he didn't bet on what happened next. In the grounds stood a derelict 18th-century gamekeeper's cottage, which was immediately spotted by Historic England. "It changed the whole dynamic of what I thought would be a straightforward new-build project, and became a far more arduous planning exercise."

In hindsight, Found reflects, it would have been a "massive mistake" to demolish the now Grade II listed cottage: not only because of its original

wrought-iron windows, but also because the mix of old and new is what makes the hideaway so special. "It would have been very bland otherwise," he admits. This unusual home is the star of the latest episode of *House Proud*, a video series by *The Telegraph* on Britain's most extraordinary homes.

The first thing you see when you arrive at the house, nestled in 16 acres of wooded valley in the Cotswolds, is the cottage. It's not until you view the property from the lake that you see his rectangular, Riba-award-winning extension built into the hillside in full. It melds into the surroundings, with Cotswold dry stone-retaining walls and green roofs.

"The planners wanted the cottage to


**LET THERE BE LIGHT**  
 Inside Richard Found's Cotswolds home, a mix of old and new, main and above

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