

### The floorplan

The crucifix plan maximises views through the trees in all directions, with large amounts of uninterrupted glazing to the facades and roof. The open plan living accommodation together with the master bedroom suite is located across the entire first floor, with all other accommodation and the garage at ground floor level.



First floor



Ground floor

### A sustainable lifestyle

The key to a sustainable lifestyle at Lyneham Coombe is the low consumption of energy. The use of mains electricity is confined to lighting, air extraction and running appliances. Underfloor heating is fuelled by gas, and consumption should be low due to the insulation properties of the house. There is no mains water and therefore no water rates. Potable water drawn from a dedicated well provides water for drinking and washing, and a 'grey' recycled water system serves toilets, garden watering and car washing. This is based on a 12,000 litre buried storage tank into which rainwater runs after initial filtration. Effluent from the house is oxygen treated by state-of-the-art equipment akin to a private sewage plant.



### WHAT WAS YOUR WORST EXPERIENCE DURING THE PROJECT?

It was a huge venture and there were times when I wondered if we had bitten off more than we could chew. I guess the darkest days were tackling the groundworks in the middle of a wet and muddy winter. Building the reinforced retaining wall was a major construction challenge, and the end of the project seemed an extremely long way off. There were also some anxious moments when the £60,000 glass panels were being lifted into place. But I had complete confidence in John, who had an impressive ability to solve problems on the site with no fuss.



### WHAT ABOUT A HIGH POINT?

On the whole it was a very happy experience and the local building team were a friendly, hard working bunch who got a big buzz out of doing something difficult and special. There was a great deal of pride at seeing such a major project well done.

### WHAT WAS GOOD VALUE AND WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

Finishes such as the limestone worktops and walnut flooring were expensive, but the cedar roof shingles were surprisingly good value and we bought hundreds of tons of stone from nearby Trusham Quarry, including shale at just £9 per ton delivered.

### DO YOU HAVE ANY FUTURE PLANS?

Initially the house at Lyneham was intended for me, but as the project grew it was obvious it would be too big for a weekend house, and I have no thoughts of retirement. Also, my wife Kiki doesn't enjoy living permanently outside London, insisting that she is prone to attacks of nausea if more than ten minutes removed from access to cultural events. For these reasons we are selling the house and I am still looking for somewhere smaller in Devon as an eco friendly holiday retreat.

### ADDRESS BOOK:

- Richard Webster RIBA, Webster Sheryn Partnership (architect) 01364 72257, [webstersheryn.com](http://webstersheryn.com)
- Chris Wright Associates (structural engineer) 01803 865500, [chriswrightassociates.com](http://chriswrightassociates.com)
- Anne Webster BIDA, Webster Sheryn Partnership (interior designer) 01364 72257, [webstersheryn.com](http://webstersheryn.com)
- John Ward, Sirius Projects Ltd (construction and timber engineering) 07736 120838
- Homeserve (Pilkington glass) 08451 467011, [homeserve.com](http://homeserve.com)
- Architectural Products Ltd (aluminium fabrication) 01684 291555, [architecturalproducts.co.uk](http://architecturalproducts.co.uk)
- Bradbury Water Services (water consultants) 0800 783 1893
- Richard Green BSc (ecology and bat consultant) 01404 812158
- Yeandle Geotechnical Ltd (geotechnical consultants) 01392 460800
- Centreline Surveys (surveying consultants) 01803 524015
- Actis Insulation Ltd (roof insulation) 01249 446123, [insulation-actis.com](http://insulation-actis.com)
- UK Veneering (walnut doors) [veneering.com](http://veneering.com)
- Atkinson & Kirby Ltd (walnut flooring) [akirby.co.uk](http://akirby.co.uk)
- Westcountry Machinery (plant) 01626 821972
- Civil Solutions Ltd (builders merchants) 01626 202480
- Supa Roofing (roofing materials) 01803 873288, [suparoofting.com](http://suparoofting.com)
- Mayflower Kitchens Ltd [mayflowerkitchens.com](http://mayflowerkitchens.com)
- Trembath Natural Stone (kitchen worktops) 01752 770717, [trembathnaturalstone.co.uk](http://trembathnaturalstone.co.uk)
- Porcelanosa (bathrooms and tiles) 01392 215552
- PC Henderson Ltd (sliding doors) 01913 370701
- Trusham Quarry, Hanson Aggregates (quarry stone) 0845 120 5767
- The Deck Supply Co. (timber decking) 01895 271300
- Intermesh (gabion cages) 0870 887 1450
- NatWest Business Centre (project finance) 01803 614745
- Peplows (accountancy) 01626 208802
- Eastwood Bookkeeping Services (book-keeping) [eastbooks.co.uk](http://eastbooks.co.uk)
- Hot-property.biz (property management) 0845 055 3255