



*Denne Manor
Barn*

Historic barn transformed into hi-tech dwelling **07/07/06**

Denne Manor Barn in Shottenden is an impressive conservation project completed by LEP this year. The Grade 2 listed barn, dating from the 17th Century, once a redundant farm building in the grounds of Denne Manor, also Grade 2 listed, has now been restored to its former glory and transformed inside into a state-of-the art contemporary dwelling.

At the beginning of Spring 2004 the barn was not only dilapidated but an eyesore. Its timber frame was decayed in part, the centre of the front elevation demolished to widen access and its original cart entries, although still visible in the roof structure, missing. In addition the roof was clad in sheet metal, the sides had lost most of their original boarding and the rear of the building had been crudely rebuilt in blockwork.

The challenge was to preserve the barn's unique features. The design respects the architectural and historic interest of the building and the use of minimal fenestration and an innovative glazing system ensures that there is no loss to the original timber structure. The cart entries and central section have been reinstated and the barn restored in original cladding and re-roofed in traditional plain clay tiles.

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The result is a discreet conversion in which the building's historic character has been successfully restored to complement Denne Manor and the surrounding countryside.

Once inside the restored timber frame acts as a striking contrast to a contemporary interior fully equipped with the latest computerised light, electrical and audio-visual technology. The generous central lounge and dining area occupies the full height of the building and the original timbers are clearly visible.

At either end of the barn custom-built glass spiral staircases wind their way up to first floor level. An important feature of the design is the sweeping view from the library/gallery from which it is possible to see the full length of the barn and appreciate the pleasing proportions of the intact 17th Century structure.

The ground floor also accommodates a highly specified kitchen and three bedrooms. On the first floor above the kitchen, are a bed-deck and innovative bathroom 'pod', with a master bedroom and en suite immediately above the downstairs bedrooms.