

New Restaurant Building and Interior for Gravetye Manor by Charles Knowles Design Ltd

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INTRODUCTION

* Opening in the year of its 60th anniversary, this long established, highly respected Grade 1 listed country house hotel has a newly built restaurant. Renowned for its exquisitely beautiful Grade 11th gardens and superb Michelin Star food the existing restaurant had been growing in popularity, outgrowing its size. The architect was selected for his knowledge of important historical buildings with a brief to develop a restaurant building with double the covers of the existing which would sit harmoniously and seamlessly within the context of the Manor.

* The challenge was twofold: firstly to design a contemporary structure with understated simplicity to complement, not compete with the historic building. The solution was a floating 'umbrella' lead roofed structure with frameless floor to ceiling glazing which presents the guests on entry with a breathtaking English garden panorama: secondly to build it in four months of winter weather. The solution was to work closely with a contractor as part of the design team and crane all the materials and equipment over the building to retain the garden.

* The architect was assisted with decorative finishes by Nelson Design who introduced Claire Basler to the project and, in collaboration with Elizabeth Hosking, selected the fabrics for the banquette seating and chairs in crisp apple and olive green velvets with accent cushions in zesty limes, dusty rose pinks and fuchsia, sympathetic to the garden theme.

DESIGN TEAM: Client - Gravetye Manor and owner Jeremy & Elizabeth Hosking.
Architect - Charles Knowles Design Ltd. www.charlesknowles.com
Contractor - A&F Pilbeam Construction Ltd.
QS - Listers. Structural Engineer - CampbellReith. M&E Engineers - Ingine



A breathtaking English Garden Panorama - bringing the garden in to the dining experience.



The architect designed the interior layout to maximise covers, personal space and intimacy by creating discrete sections with luxurious banquette seating enclosed by oak dwarf walls. A light maple acoustic ceiling keeps noise levels to a muted but buzzy level reflecting the serenity of the surroundings. The 200 year old reclaimed Versailles pattern oak floor perfectly befits the style of the Manor. The atmosphere is enhanced by innovative, subtle lighting remotely directed on to every table.



The centrepiece of the structure is a central roof light allowing sunshine to pour deep into the space and clad in mirror to give the effect of a very thin light roof.



The walls are the restored weathered stonework of the manor, bathed in light through high level perimeter glass and decorated with hand painted panels by the renowned French artist, Claire Basler, to reflect the garden theme. New stone mullioned openings connect the new to the old.

