

The Water Tower

Saved from the scrapyards, the conversion of this tower, using timber, into a private home means it can remain standing proudly above the barley fields, overlooking its beloved village of Castle Acre.



- Location
Castle Acre
- Architect
Tonkin Liu
- Structural Engineer
Rodrigues Associates
- Services Engineer
Integration
- Main Contractor
MNB Services
- Service Provided Steelworks
GLW Engineering & Construction Ltd
- Wood Supplier
Binderholz UK Ltd
- Species
Spruce (Austria) - PEFC

What once provided water to the village has lain in ruin since after the war. Bidding against scrap metal dealers the clients bought the water tower at auction. Now it has been reinvented into a delightful house of inventiveness and joyful peculiarity with the addition of timber rooms and a timber cantilevered staircase rising through the tower into the tank.

This castle-like cantilevered CLT stair tower acts as a compression spiral, similar to what is found in a seashell. This delivers the steel water tank structure's wind loads down to the foundations. The combined strength of this timber spiral and the shear timber walls form a rigid structure that lends stability to the existing steel frame structure.

Lending panoramic views of the landscape, the Water Tower stands as a living landmark which resonates in the personal history of the individuals of the village who supported its reuse.