



Beauty, according to the interior designer Veere Greeney, is not just in the eye of the beholder but in his solar plexus too. "When you walk into a beautiful room you should feel it rise in your chest," he says with just a hint of drama teacher in his voice. It is a response which, he claims, is experienced by virtually everyone who has ever set foot in his 18th-century temple on the Tendring estate near the border of Essex and Suffolk. It is here, amid neoclassical splendour on a small scale – the temple consists of little

more than a drawing-room, tiny kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and dining-room – that Greeney spends his weekends 'chilling'. But to judge by the immaculate interior, the recently restored canal, and the rose garden that provides blooms to match the pink and yellow colour scheme of the drawing-room, 'chilling' seems to be the last thing on his mind.

The temple is kept to this pitch of domestic perfection with the help of a resident caretaker and his wife. But it has not always looked so spruce; when Greeney took on the lease 20 years ago both interior and exterior were extremely tired. Since then he has restored,

decorated and redecorated it (the drawing-room has recently been given its third transformation since he moved in). Designed in 1750 by the architect Robert Taylor, the temple was originally used as a pleasure pavilion for the main house (now demolished); afternoons would be spent watching people fishing in the canal below or hare-coursing in the surrounding country.

Taylor's interior remains impressively intact, particularly in the drawing-room where architectural details include a lofty plasterwork ceiling and four classical figures set in alcove representing the four ages of man.