

APRIL 2012

VERANDA

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Special Collector's Issue
THE BEST OF 25 YEARS

THE TEMPLE, A FORMER FISHING LODGE AND GARDEN FOLLY, IS NESTLED IN THE DEDHAM VALE, IN PASTORAL SUFFOLK, ONLY SIXTY MILES NORTHEAST OF LONDON. BUT THE TALL WHITE GATES THAT DEMARCAT

the Temple and its bloom-filled plots are portals to another world: an Arcadian vision of a perfectly proportioned house set against fields and water, a paradise of order and symmetry, beauty and calm.

That paradise was first glimpsed by designer Veere Grenney when he was a young teenager in New Zealand, perusing a book by the legendary David Hicks. The British decorator had saved the villa from demolition in the 1950s, then used it as a country home and staging ground, devising some of his first decors and landscapes there. Today, Grenney, who worked for Hicks and Mary Fox Linton after moving to the U.K. in his twenties, is himself in possession of the property.

"It's a nice story," he says. "And somehow suited to the romantic, theatrical atmosphere of the Temple."

The house was built in 1745 on the grounds of Tendring Hall, and it's all that remains today of the greater estate, which included a manor and stables, both demolished in the 1950s. Like a miniature Palladian villa in the Veneto, it is perfectly scaled and well-balanced, with two wings flanking a central structure set squarely across a tree-lined canal and a small, tailored garden.

When Grenney bought the property in 1985, it was "charming but rather primitive," with only one lavatory, no heating, and a basic kitchen. "I've been upgrading ever since," he says. "Now it's incredibly comfortable."

It's also quietly grand. As Grenney's partner, David





Custom sofa in Proule tone. Wing chair, Veere Grenney Collection, and custom pillows in Veere Grenney linens. Vintage floor lamp. Rug, Waveney Rush Industry. Walls in Temple, Paint and Paper Library. Trim in Slate I, Stark Paint, Colours by David Oliver. *opposite* pages: The Temple's 18th-c. facade.



in Claremont faille. Antique chandelier.
OPPOSITE: Directoire bergère and
custom settees in Claremont fabrics.
Custom ottoman in Décor de Paris
velvet. Chinese side tables, Veere
Grenney Collection. Original busts.

