

Jane's Folly

My entry for the Shed-of-the-Year Competition

folly:

1. foolishness, lack of good sense
2. an ornamental garden building of no especial purpose



by Simon for Jane





I wanted somewhere to house the cushions for these garden chairs that wasn't an ugly box.





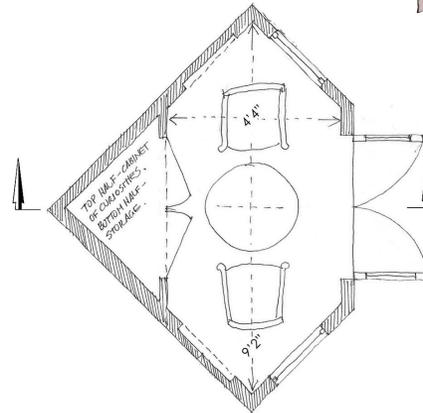
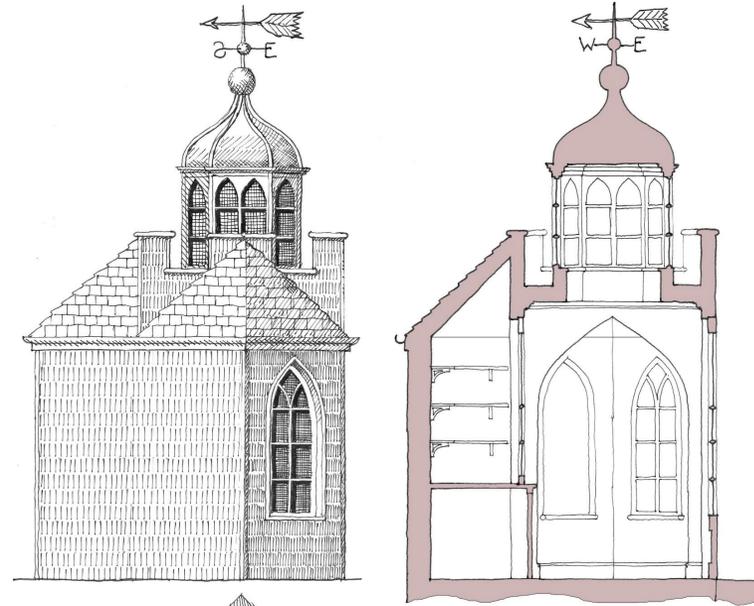
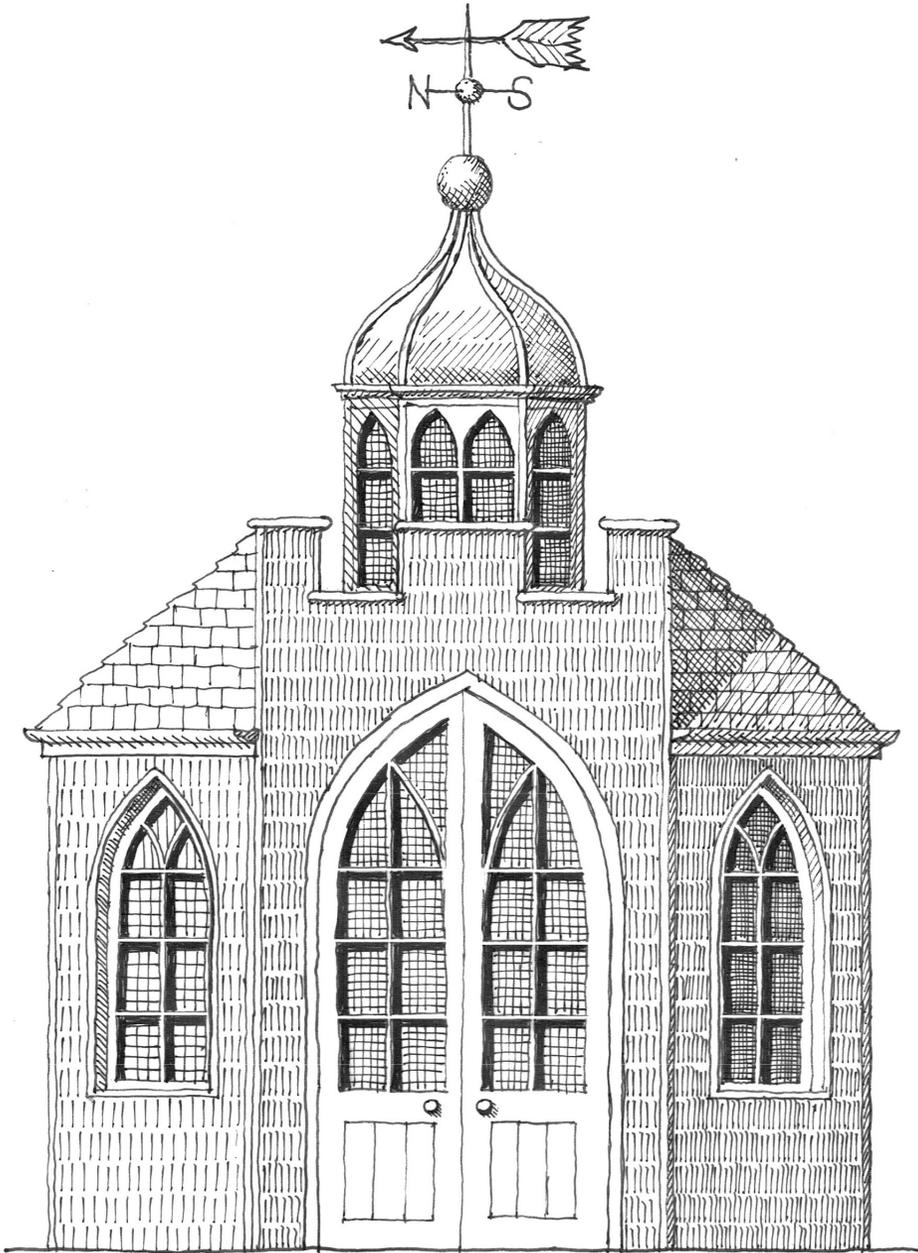
My friend Simon is an architect and I said to him that what I really wanted was a folly – something with Gothic windows and fancy castellations. It should have a cupboard for the cushions.

He said he would design me one. And we agreed on a skills-swap arrangement. He would design and do some of the building. And I, being an editor, would edit and mentor him through a book he wanted to write.

As we are both collectors of interesting stuff, he proposed making it into an exhibition space with a Cabinet of Curiosities.

I thought it could double up as a cosy bolt-hole for a sundowner – or two.

This was the first concept, and we put in for planning permission.





My next-door neighbour objected

‘The building proposed is entirely inappropriate to a small suburban garden. It is a grandiose 'mansion' garden building of a type never seen locally. This is a Conservation Area and the proposed building would be completely anomalous.’

	Scale Bar 1:50 			SCHD Architecture & Design 40 Manor Road, Walthamstow, E17 9EJ Tel: 020 8501 0811 Mobile: 07460 46500 Website: www.schd.co.uk		8 COLLINGWOOD AVENUE Walthamstow, E17 9EJ PROPOSED SOUTH BOUNDARY ELEVATION		Scale 1:50 Date 12/12/2018
								1:50 12/12/2018



Another neighbour said

‘Given what has been approved over the years in the area when it comes to kitchen extensions and dormers, I can’t see how anyone can see this folly as out-of-character.’



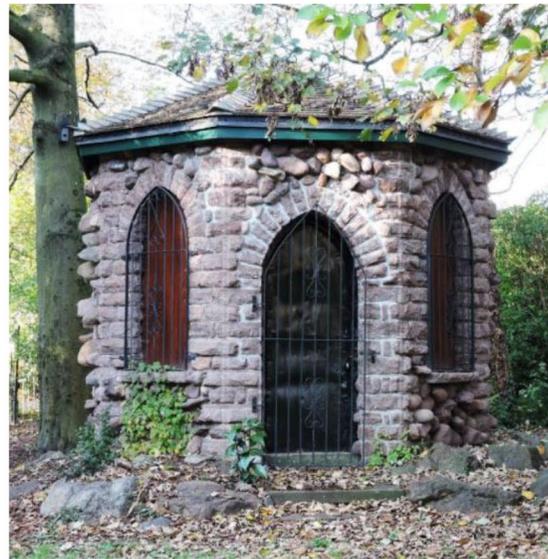
Garden buildings in my road



Other neighbours who have a view of it said:

‘This is a lovely structure to be added to a garden.’

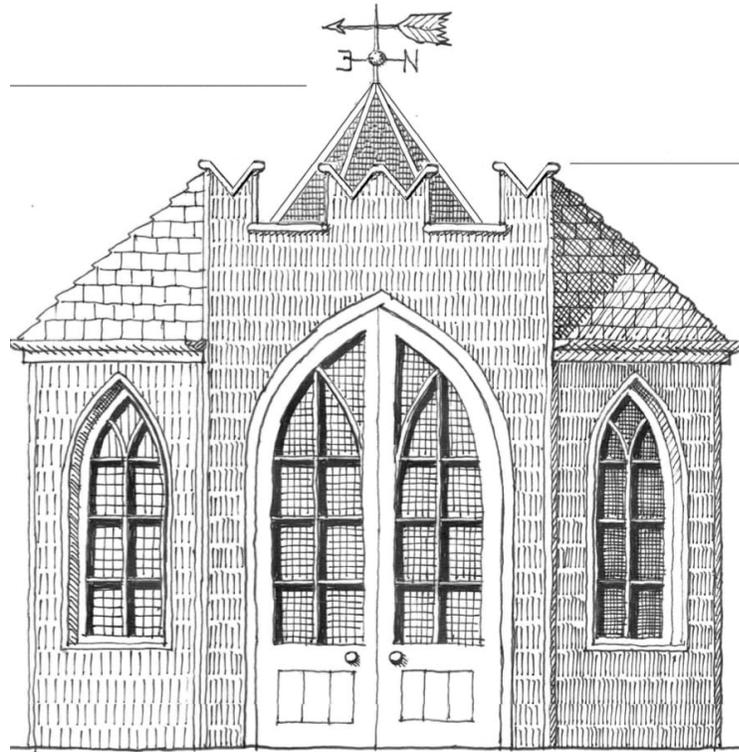
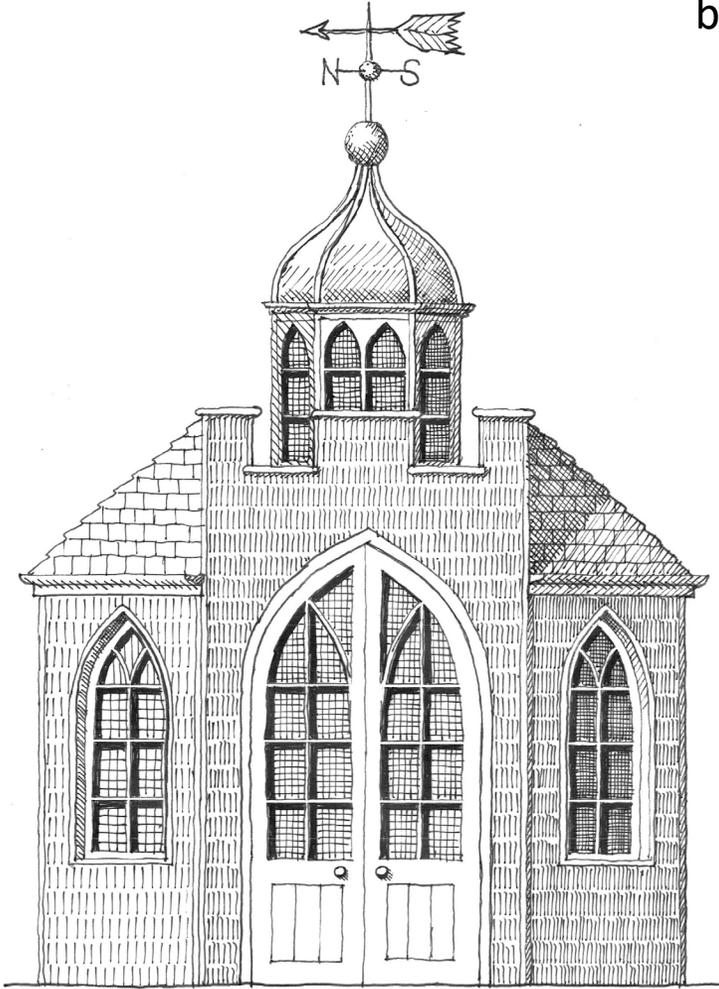
‘This whimsical fussy gothic folly on an eye-catching scale is sure to be a welcome addition, enlivening a dull featureless garden boundary.’



An architectural historian said:

‘The design is imaginative and in a long tradition of light-hearted garden buildings. This summer house will only be visible at the rear where the elevations of houses have no particular merit and many have been altered. It will enhance an otherwise undistinguished area.’

The planning department liked it, but said maybe it was a bit too tall. So we reduced the original concept and this is what was built.



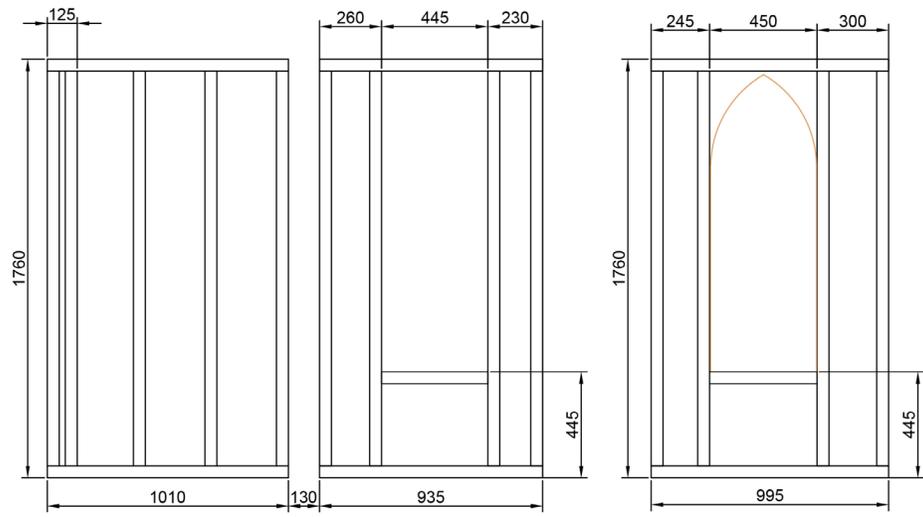
NORTH EAST ELEVATION (AA)





And here are some construction pictures

FRAMES ARE VIEWED FROM OUTSIDE



FRAME G (2 PARTS)

FRAME H (LEFT OF DOORS)

THESE FRAMES SIT ON TOP OF THE 25MM PLY FLOOR DECK





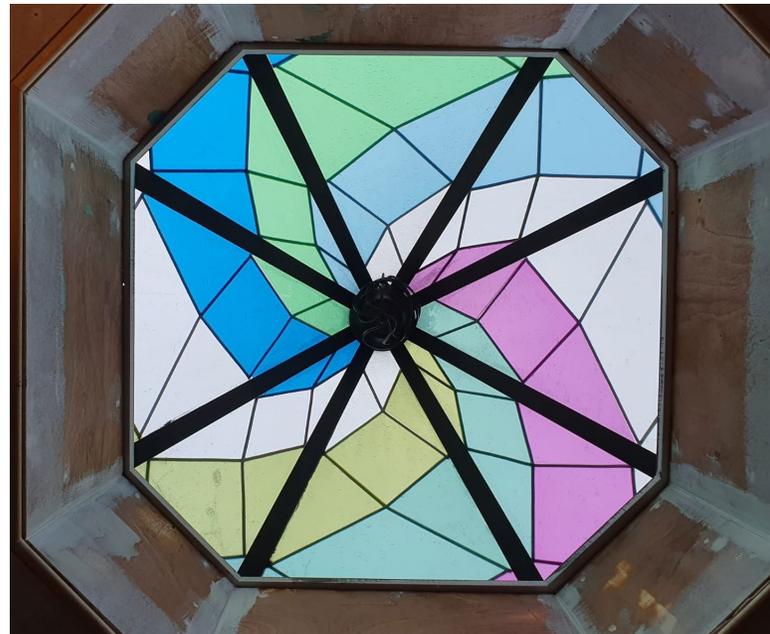
I did a bit of the work, but I am 77 and I had to call in help.

And Simon did all the tricky bits,
like building, and installing the
lantern.





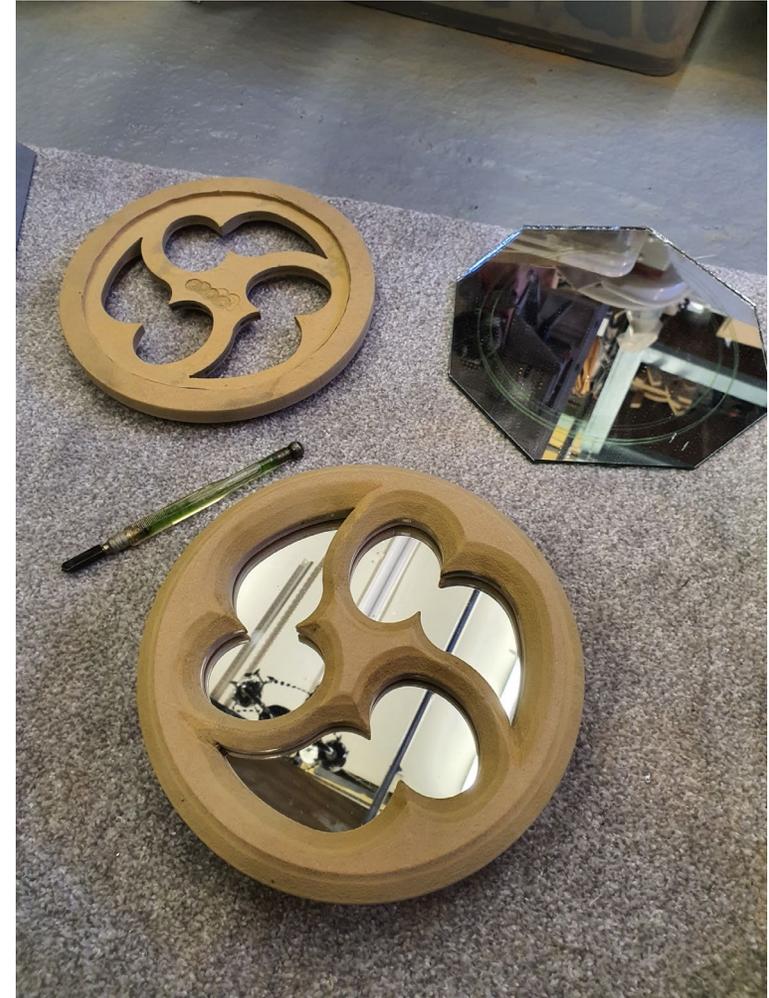
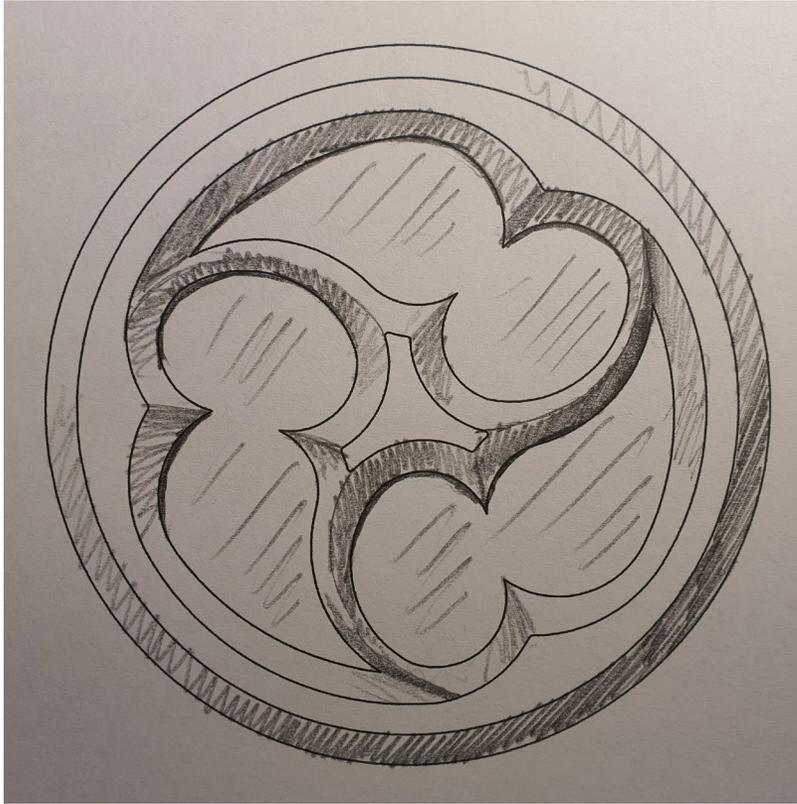
But it was a particular thrill for me to draw up a life-size version of my own cat for the weathervane.



And Simon and I cut and constructed the 'mock' stained glass together.



Topping out in winter and ready for guests in April.



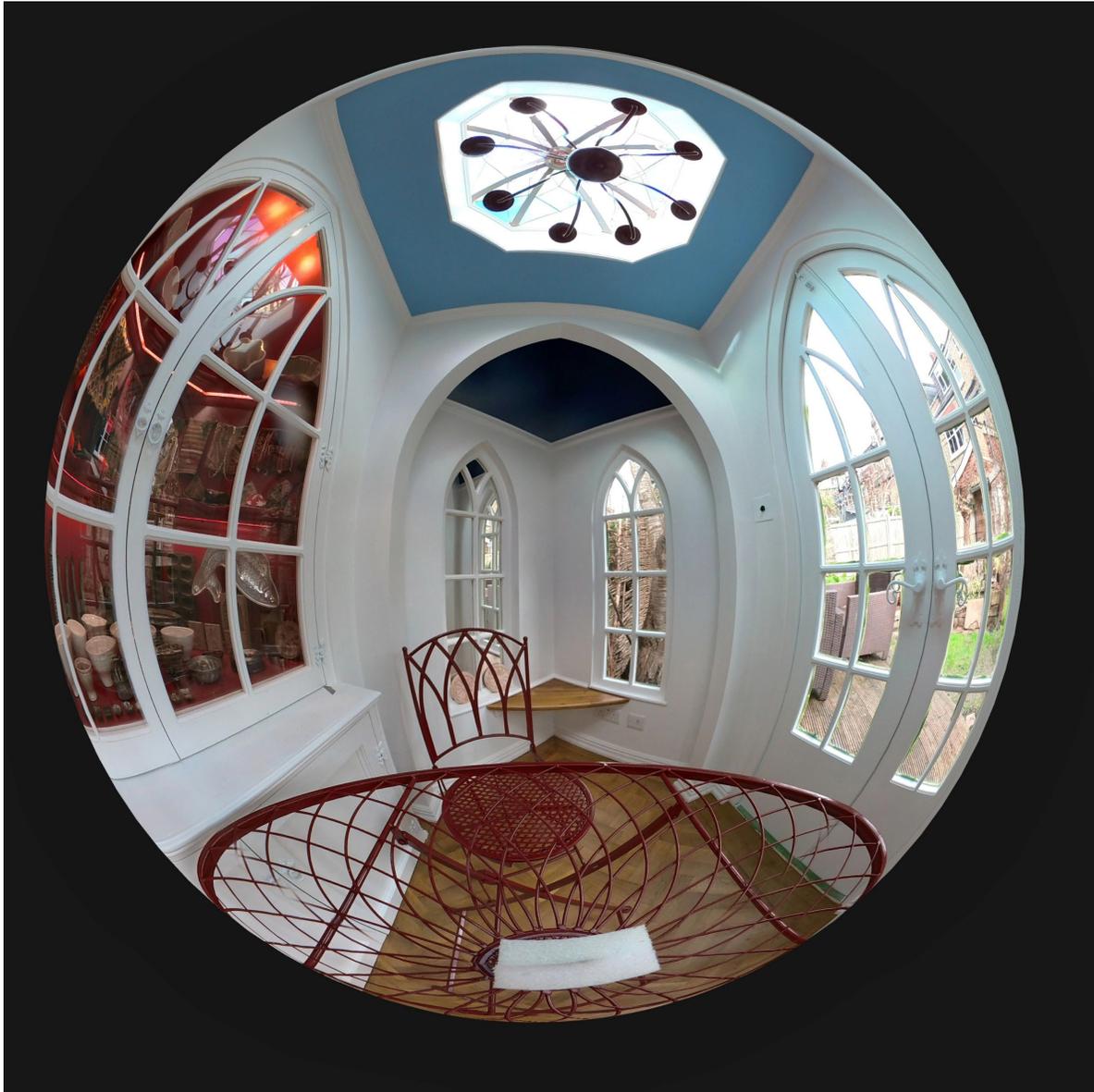
New jet-cutting technology makes details like this and the doors and windows affordable.



Here it is with its Cabinet of Curiosities, the cupboard for the cushions below, and the table (found in a flea market) with champagne and glasses.

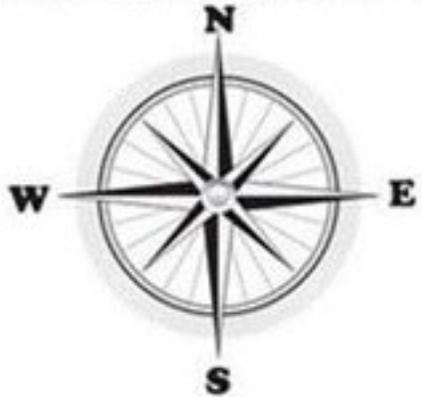
The lantern lit up at night is a delight.

Two pictures of the inside taken with a 360 camera





My paintings of the Greek winds that go round the 8 sides of the lantern in cartouches that Simon made for me.



Other mural features to follow.





Ready to welcome visitors, Easter 2022

Jane Dorner