

Lymm Water Tower

Cheshire UK



Bought on a whim for £138,000, Russell and Jannette Harris became the proud owners of a 130-year-old Victorian water tower, overlooking the Cheshire countryside.

Background:

The 5-storey tower is one of several hundred surviving water towers built in the mid to late 19th century to improve public health in towns, villages and hospitals across Britain. The Harris' and architect Julian Baker, from Ellis Williams, could see the potential for turning the tower into a 'domestic study in minimalism' right from the start.

The challenge:

"The nature of these buildings demands the most imaginative architectural solutions to the obvious problems they pose: how to make use of a building that has a small footprint but is five or more storeys high, with walls many feet thick" comments Russell Harris.

Lutron's Homeworks lighting control system includes:



Advanced whole-home lighting control system.



Ideal for controlling other home electronics systems, such as multi-room audio.



Powerful P5 HomeWorks processor contains features such as conditional logic and an integral astronomic timeclock.

The solution:

The Harris family has solved the problem of the narrow tower by dedicating it to bedroom space, and has built a wrap-around glass-fronted ground floor for the kitchen and living quarters. The house and tower are a study in minimalism with white flooring, a white Poggenpohl kitchen (designed to accommodate every appliance behind handle-less doors) and Lutron's state-of-the-art HomeWorks® whole-house lighting control system used to minimise the need for wall switches.

Rather than combining keypads with wall control panels, all of the HomeWorks system is triggered by the master keypad and infra-red sensors placed strategically around the home. This enables lights to be turned on only in rooms that detect movement, as well as ensuring that the walls keep their minimalist feel.

The results:

Lutron Electronics' HomeWorks® lighting system constantly monitors and records the state of all devices in the house and tower. The powerful HomeWorks processor is the centre of the system and communicates with keypads, dimmers, switches, preset scene controls, and central dimming and switching modules to operate lights, relays, motors and other remote-controlled devices.

Only now, following years of loving re-building work, can the beauty of the Lymm Water Tower truly be seen. With the couple's motto above the door: Ad Astra Per Aspera – to the stars through difficulty – the tower is one of the most astonishing private houses in the country and has received various awards, including the prestigious Lighting Design Award for its innovative approach to lighting design.

Architect	Ellis Williams
Client	Russell and Jannette Harris
Equipment provider	Lutron Electronics Co., Inc.
Photography	Lutron
Lutron products	Homeworks lighting control system

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