



■ CONTEMPORARY STYLE: The School House in Woodstock is the home of Dennis Allen who is pictured below

# Inspirational design with a wow factor

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A CONVERTED school house in Woodstock is an outstanding example of visionary design with a real wow factor

When Dennis Allen and his family bought the property, in 1991, they wanted to create a contemporary home within the austere Victorian Gothic exterior.

Now, after many years of painstaking work, they have a 6,822 sq ft home which stands virtually opposite the gates of Blenheim Palace, making it ideal for enjoying the shops and restaurants of Woodstock.

Mr Allen, a business development mentor, said: "We have an amazing family home that has a dramatic 65ft-long reception space, a cinema, study, kitchen, six bedrooms and four bathrooms.

"It is a modern minimalist space that has not aged with time. Even today, people assume that the conversion was only

done a couple of years ago.

"It has an open-plan design although the rooms are on different levels to create an interesting layout."

The family moved in just 30 months after the project began, although much of the work was done over the following 14 years.

The garden, which was created by Oxfordshire-based landscape designer Sarah Massey, was finished eight years ago.

The latest addition is a 1,000 sq ft office/studio.

Gavin West, of selling agents, Kemp & Kemp Residential, said: "Both the house and the garden are unlike anything I have seen before.

"Dennis has used his love of modern Italian design to create stunning spaces that work well as a family home."

"The house is as well suited for a large party as an intimate evening by the fire."

In addition to the School House there is a Georgian two-bedroomed lodge which is for sale as part of the main house or as a separate lot.

Mr Allen added: "Being in Woodstock is a perfect location



and we have been very happy here. This house will be a hard act to follow.

"However, I want to take on a new challenge and build a contemporary house in Woodstock or the surrounding area."

School House and Lodge Cottage are for sale for £2.25m.

For more details, call Kemp & Kemp Residential on 01865 510000.

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