

ABOVE: Dining table, old monastery door converted into a refectory table by a carpenter in Highgate, London. Oak gothic carver chairs from Holt Antiques Centre, Holt, 01263 712097. RIGHT: View of the property from the river which runs behind it.

complement each other and, of course, with the wonderful blank canvas, each space lets you appreciate even more the different styles. Favourite items include the Jean Cocteau 1952 Vase on the shelf by the fire and the Hitchcock painting from my father hanging in the dining area."

Robert adds: "This living area is undoubtedly the total favourite. Where else are you going to find such a spectacular view in Norfolk? And the style we have chosen works so well. I also like the wet room as it's a dream bathroom and again so stylish."

This theme is again echoed at the right-hand end of this area where a period dining table, made from an old monastery door is teamed with ultramodern designer, white dining chairs. By contrast, to one side, is an early 17th century table on which is a favourite possession, a French bronze of Jesus, made around 1900 and bought at

Walsingham, and an early Irish settle bought in Camden Passage in London.

To take full advantage of the amazing view, nearly the whole of one side of this living space is glass.

"I wanted to create the illusion of the outside coming in," says Robert, "so decided on concertina-folding full height, glazed doors, which then extend this living area on to the new extended deck and countryside beyond. Everyone who comes in here just says 'wow, we never expected this, it's so spectacular'. Also being able to cross the deck and garden down to the river is just magic."

The remaining rooms on the ground floor are equally as stylish as the rest of the property. First the guest bedroom accessorised in black and white, which also takes advantage of that view. Next door is a state-of-the-art gym. "I like working out most days," says Robert, "so finally to have our own gym is great.

