

Ballymolee to.



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# *follies*

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FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:  
**'CHESS CASTLE' &  
 WATCHTOWER,  
 BERRIEDALE;  
 CROMWELL'S TOWER,  
 INVERNESS**

tribution to this country that has given me such an incredible life'. It was designed by the engineer Nick Evans, took four years to build (completed in 1994), and stands 115ft high. Cunningham-Reid rents the tower to friends and people she describes as 'carefully selected strangers' - I haven't dared ask the price, but if someone wants to ring Chapters (0845 070 0618) and let me know...

The final offering from the *Telegraph* (yep, that's where the pagoda extract came from too) is shell decorator Blott Kerr-Wilson's own family home, the **Moulin Mauze**, near La Rochelle in Brittany. Having won a *World of Interiors* competition 14 years ago (for 'shelling' the bathroom of her council flat in Peckham), her other commissions have included the **shell room** at **Ballymaloe Cookery School** in Ireland, a bathroom in Texas, and more importantly and recently, the restoration of the **shell room** at **Cilwendeg**, which is due to open to the public next spring. Not that her own home escaped: there are decorative panels made as maquettes for a commission in a French chateau, elaborately 'shelled' window casements, and an eight foot diameter circle of mussel shells, in a spiral arrangement. Blott, incidentally, stems from a childhood mispronunciation by her sister of her real name, Charlotte.

#### Follies in fiction

Interesting how follies have become (again?) a 'must have' feature of recent novels: Clive Cussler - my escapism holiday reading - includes two in *Trojan Odyssey*: a sham lighthouse and a reconstructed Stonehenge, and in Alison Lurie's recent book, *Truth and Consequences*, one of the central characters, Alan Mackenzie, has ideas for a series of architectural follies.

#### Berriedale follies

**Berriedale** is a small village situated on the coast some way below Wick in the Scottish Highlands. On the cliff top above the village are two follies. One has the name '**Chess Castle**' due to its resemblance to the chess piece, and is featured on the front of Landranger map no. 17 (mentioned in *FOLLIES* #58). The other is a

tower with a seat, so '**Watchtower**' or '**Lookout tower**' are obvious names. The Waitress at the café just below the follies, when asked the folly's name said, 'I haven't got a clue', which sounds a good name for a folly but I don't think it's what she meant! The folly cannot be photographed from the front, without the use of rock climbing equipment.

#### Cromwell's Tower

**Cromwell's Tower** or **Clock Tower** is located in Cromwell Road, **Inverness**, Highland, and dates from the 18th century. It marks the site of the Citadel, a fort built in 1652-58 during Cromwell's administration, which was demolished in 1660 during the Restoration period.

#### Little Britain? No, Little Europe

Mr Meeùs is facing a big, or rather, little dilemma. He runs **Mini Europe**, a six acre, multi-million pound recreation of the European Union in miniature, on the outskirts of **Brussels**. When his park - which is under the formal patronage of the EU - was built in 1989, there were just 12 nations in the European Community, and much of the land was devoted to the founding members, which sprouted large models of the Eiffel Tower, the Brandenburg Gate and the Doge's palace in Venice. Now that he has to find room for 25 nations, Denmark has had to be moved to make way for Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, and Germany may have to be nudged closer to Luxembourg for similar additions. The new countries clearly want the same recognition: the Czechs suggested recreating the entire Castle Hill of Prague, which would have been 80 metres long, before offering the capital's Old City Hall. Even nations not yet in the EU are actively seeking sites and even offering free monuments such is the prestige.

#### Northowram Bath House

The subterranean **bath house** at **Northowram Hall**, near Halifax, has been listed Grade II in its own right (see 'Underground and underhand' in *FOLLIES* #60, Spring 2005, p. 10). Previously, it was listed by virtue of being within the curtilage of the Grade-II-listed Hall. Whether this will protect the building any better is yet