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We need to rethink our model
of healthcare design, to support health
rather than simply treating illnesses.

AR. RAHUL KADRI
Principal Architect And Partner,
IMH Architects, Mumbai.



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CONTENT **ifj**

NEW INTERPRETATION FOR WORDSWORTH'S COTTAGE

Celebrating the 250th anniversary

of the birth of the great English Romantic poet, William Wordsworth, Nissen Richards Studio was commissioned by The Wordsworth Trust's 'Reimagining Wordsworth' initiative, to refurbish Wordsworth's former Lake District home, Dove Cottage, to provide an immersive, authentic experience to visitors, apart from a whole swathe of other design activities under the Wordsworth Grasmere brand. Though he has lived in other parts of Cumbria, Dove Cottage is associated with Wordsworth, as the place he wrote his most famous poems. Speaking of the project, Michael McGregor, Director, The Wordsworth Trust, says 'Reimagining Wordsworth is a celebration of people, poetry and place, of great literature, created by remarkable people in an inspirational landscape'.

scope of work

From housing an on-site museum in a single room at the time of purchase, the Wordsworth complex, added more land and buildings and the site now encompasses Dove Cottage, the Museum and the Jerwood Centre, that houses a world-class collection of Wordsworth manuscripts, and other supporting structures.

The brief to Nissen Richards Studio was to create Wordsworth Grasmere's new exhibition design and interpretation, wayfinding and signage, and some interior design, branding, graphics and the art-direction of most of the project's AV elements, including films by renowned documentary-maker Nick Street and sound designs by specialist sound designer Carolyn Downing.



the refurbishment

The ground floor of the cottage consists of three main rooms – a lodging room, back kitchen and the main kitchen, a busy and domestic family space, where, thinking and writing happened. Several changes had been made to Dove Cottage since Wordsworth's time, incorporating both furniture and a number of fitted fixtures from a later period to create a more honest treatment for the Grade-I-listed cottage. New furniture built in the style of the period, commissioned from local craftsmen, sits alongside surviving furniture.

'Our approach to the design', Pippa Nissen, Studio Director, Nissen Richards explained, 'was not to replicate the original state, but to intimate and evoke its past history. An object-based treatment, including a wonderful resource from the period in the form of Dorothy Wordsworth's Grasmere journal, has been combined with film and sound design commissions to suggest a lived-in and humble home, where extraordinary writing took place.'



'The concept is for visitors to explore the cottage using all their senses', Elin Simonsson, Head of Interpretation at Nissen Richards Studio explained, 'effectively becoming 'Wordsworthian' as they pass through the space, walking where William and Dorothy walked, sitting where they sat, ascending the same staircase, seeing through the same windows.'

Sound designer Carolyn Downing has created a soundscape for the scheme that breathes life into the home and creates a sense of the real lives lived here. Subtle snatched sounds, as if from the next room or coming in through the window, create a rich picture of everyday life, including children playing and muffled conversations, utilising a variety of voices and local accents.

This impressionistic sense of the house and its history is built on further as visitors go upstairs and discover the first objects on display, including a journal belonging William's beloved sister, diarist, poet and writer Dorothy Wordsworth, in the sitting room, where furniture also includes an original sofa and chair from the Wordsworths' tenure.

'The new brand that Nissen Richards Studio have designed for Wordsworth Grasmere perfectly captures the essence of Wordsworth's legacy. It is contemporary and inspirational with a timeless feel and will be invaluable in helping us to shape a new identity for our organisation. We couldn't be happier with it!' said Emily Burnham, Marketing and Communications Manager at The Wordsworth Trust. ifj



DOVE COTTAGE, GRASMERE

in late 1799, while on a walking tour of the lake district, william wordsworth saw dove cottage in grasmere and decided to make it his home. he had known the valley as a boy, describing it as 'paradise'. within a few weeks, wordsworth and his sister dorothy had moved in and were busily furnishing the home and planning a garden. it was whilst living here that wordsworth produced most of his greatest and best-loved poems, and dorothy wrote her fascinating grasmere journal, on this remarkable period of 'plain living and high thinking'.



This plot of orchard-ground is ours; My trees they are, my Sister's flowers; Here rest your wings when they are weary; Here lodge as in a sanctuary!

*"I think these years have been the very happiest of my life"
Dorothy Wordsworth, on her time at Dove Cottage*





*Your mind is the garden,
Your thoughts are the seeds,
The harvest can either be flowers or weeds.*



*Fill your paper with the breathings
of your heart.*

*Now I am free, enfranchised and at large,
May fix my habitation where I will.
What dwelling shall receive me, in what vale
Shall be my harbor, underneath what grove
Shall I take up my home, and what sweet stream
Shall with its murmurs lull me to rest ? 而*



*For oft when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude,
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the Daffodils.*