

Raise the ROOF

High riser Paul Woodcock shows why his loft conversions are a cut above

Apexloft.com has helped homeowners increase the value, and enjoyment, of their properties for the past 20 years. Owner Paul Woodcock displayed his creativity from a tender age. "Even as a young boy I always loved making things, especially in wood – and one Christmas an astute Uncle and a Aunt (I later converted their loft!) bought me a joiner's toolbox and from that moment I was hooked!"

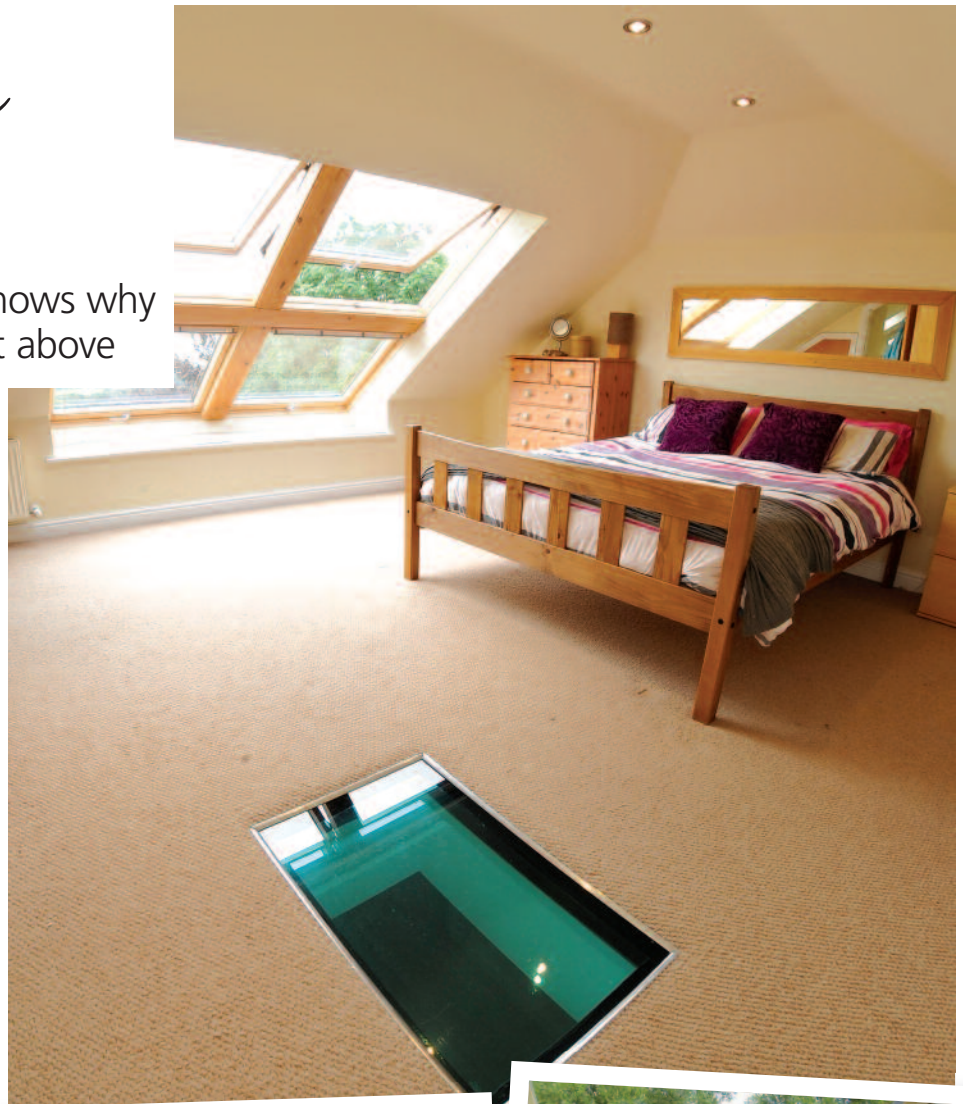
"As a youngster I pestered local builders to let me help out, and in my teens I was a venture scout, messing around in boats, camping or trying to build the biggest and best skateboarding ramps. I even created made-to-measure skateboards for friends. I then went to college for four years and did bench and site joinery to a City & Guilds advanced stage."

Room at the top

"Necessity encouraged my first loft conversion. I was 18 and sharing a bunk bed with my nine-year-old brother. So I set to work enlarging the family terrace house, and in a couple of weeks I had my own bedroom. Family and friends were amazed at the results and even well-respected builders were impressed. Soon I was in great demand, and with a few ads in the local papers and word of mouth recommendations, the calls started coming in thick and fast. For the last 20 years I've specialised in loft conversions."



FURTHER INFORMATION
Apexloft.com operates nationwide. To find out more call 0800 074 9087 or visit apexloft.com.



Taking off

Every loft is different, and this is where Paul's expertise comes into its own. "In the early days I fortunately came across a problem which provided the successful format I use today," he says. "A client asked for a very low-pitched roof to be converted, and I realised that if I took the whole roof off and install a new one with a higher pitch, the extra space meant I could include everything the client wanted and more." In the following years Paul honed this skill to perfection, getting the whole roof off and a new structure back on and watertight by the end off the first day on the job. He has now completed 150 roof raises."

"The latest loft we finished, in South Lakes, has got to be our best yet. Battling the unreliable lakes

weather, we removed the roof the first Monday in May, and by the end of the day had a more suitably pitched roof on. In the following weeks we used a blue slate to re-roof, and created three bedrooms and a family shower room. It had 15 large Velux windows to allow plenty of light in."

Apexloft.com strives to give every client the best loft conversion possible to suit their house and budget. "We can remove the existing roof and insert new purpose-made attic trusses. These are inherently stronger and conform to the most rigorous structural requirements. The conversion should take a conservative estimate of three to six weeks depending on size, an improvement on the 10 to 16 weeks that many companies quote."