

Herdwick Landscapes

Peter and
Kate Kelsall

CorelDRAW takes the fret out of fretwork

A fondness for miniatures and an appreciation of the rugged beauty of England's north-west Lake District provided the inspiration for Peter and Kate Kelsall to form Herdwick Landscapes, a company that creates dolls' houses modelled on the classic stone buildings found in this unique part of the country.

Working in 1/24th and 1/48th scale and producing every minute detail by hand is extremely time-consuming and presents a number of challenges, particularly when it comes to items such as fretwork, windows and doors. To enable them to perform more intricate and detailed work, Peter and Kate decided to make the move to CorelDRAW® Graphics Suite.

Elaborate homes that capture a place in time

Dolls' houses have been a source of aspiration, self-expression, intrigue and fantasy since the sixteenth century. They freeze time in a mirrored display of nostalgic perfection and can be passed on as a keepsake through generations, preserving family history in a transient world.

"CorelDRAW has opened up a whole new world of possibilities, as we are able to do so many things which would be impossible to achieve by hand."

Peter and Kate Kelsall

Herdwick Landscapes' true-to life-dolls' houses embody the characteristic features of a period house, right down to panelled or wattle and daub partition walls, removable floorboards,



OVERVIEW

NAME:

Peter and Kate Kelsall

ORGANISATION:

Herdwick Landscapes

LOCATION:

Staffordshire, UK

INDUSTRY:

Arts and Crafts

PRODUCT:

CorelDRAW® Graphics Suite

PROJECT SUMMARY

Herdwick Landscapes is using CorelDRAW to design period stone dolls' houses which were previously arduously crafted by hand. Despite their honed model-making skills, it was physically impossible to produce some of the finer details, particularly at 1/48th scale. The graphics software has enabled them to produce much more intricate work, making their dolls' houses even more true to life.



flagstone floors, wooden or stone stairs, fireplaces and inglenooks. Kate also designs her own miniature furniture from the medieval period through to the mid-twentieth century and ages it to show the appropriate wear and tear.

Customers are inspired by the attention to detail of Peter and Kate's work, much of which is made possible with CorelDRAW

The Kelsall's range of traditional stone dolls' houses includes buildings based on the tales of renowned author Beatrix Potter – another frequent visitor to the Lake District – as well as a number of commissions. Most dolls' houses come with their own deed of conveyance providing a brief history of the building and a description of the type of residents it would have housed.



Intuitive and easy to use

Making every piece by hand was very labour intensive and some parts – like windows and fireplaces that light up – were just too small to make in 1/48 scale, so Peter and Kate decided to take the plunge and go digital.

“When we made the move to CorelDRAW, people told us we'd have to go through a big learning curve, as we had limited computer skills. But we actually breezed through it, and were up and running within a week,” said Peter. “The intuitive page layout and tools that do exactly what you'd expect them to do make it really straightforward to use.”

The Kelsalls use CorelDRAW for their house plans, windows and doors, engraving, furniture design and to simulate carving. The Toolbox with its vector shapes and drawing tools is most useful for this, while the Color Styles docker lets you add the colours you've chosen for a particular project as a colour style, for consistency. The transformation tools are also very helpful for positioning, skewing and rotating objects.



More detail, less production time

The addition of an HPC laser cutter allows them to output CorelDRAW files directly and benefit from precision-cut pieces such as individual draws that slide open, fireplaces and lights that illuminate – even at the minute 1/48th scale. The laser cutter interprets the fill tool in CorelDRAW as an engraving, enabling even finer touches to be put to their work.

The Kelsalls are especially pleased with the amount of time CorelDRAW has saved them. Peter explains: “In the past, I had to make all the windows by hand, which could take me up to five days. Now I can do an entire batch of windows in just one day.” And for Kate, items such as the panelling on a four-poster bed - which previously required each individual panel to be painstakingly cut out by hand - can now be created as a single piece and produced within a couple of hours. “I can also expand the range of styles so, for example, it is much easier and quicker to create the tiled fireplaces characteristic of Victorian houses,” she adds.



For Herdwick Landscapes the attention to detail is evident both inside and outside their diminutive properties.

Inspired by
England's most green
and pleasant land

*Herdwick
Landscapes*



www.herdwicklandscapes.co.uk

The inspiration for the company name is the herdwick sheep, a breed unique to England's Lake District and symbolic of the rugged beauty and charm of this special landscape.

A small world with big possibilities

Down House, the residence of Charles Darwin, is among the more quirky commissions that Herdwick Landscapes has secured, alongside a Norwegian house and the Black Pig coaching inn, which was produced for a large model railway set in Wales. These miniature homes may be small in size, but they certainly aren't small in stature, captivating people from all walks of life and across all corners of the globe.

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Peter and Kate Kelsall

“CorelDRAW has opened up a whole new world of possibilities, as we are able to do so many things which would be impossible to achieve by hand. It's really helped us carve our niche!” remarks Kate.

So, it's not just the feisty breed of sheep after which the company is named that makes it so unique.

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