

The Wind House by Mark Gwynne Jones

Who lives in the Wind House?

The house re-located and designed
by the internationally renowned if somewhat erratic artist,
known as the wind ... le vent ... el viento ... wiatr ...

See how the artist has fashioned the walls?
She's transformed them. Turning them into something
that shifts and twists beyond the pages of your bedtime story...
the Virginia creeper
... the doghouse.

To your amazement the walls have shifted
beyond where they were
yesterday beyond what you recognise
as home
beyond building regs and all proportion
she's moved them!

In fact, she's turned them into something of a fairytale.
A story whispered on the subway
Who lives in the wind house?
A story the kids would listen to in disbelief,
if they could but hear.

At first she was only going to rearrange his garden shed.
Pick it up, rattle his beloved tools
unsettle his precious papers and turn the lot upside down
in herbaceous borders.
Performance art playfully suggesting he *get out
more.*

Well, that was her impulse but her impulsive nature
turned on the house, scooped it up
and with her bare hands
she stretched the walls
beyond the garden ... beyond the rooftops ... beyond the rim of the hills

Glancing up you might think *How predictable!*
She's painted the ceiling a beautiful grey ...
but when you've looked for long enough (and you will)
you'll see the ceiling too shifts and twists
enough to make you think it'll open up.
Yet, layer on layer, it seldom does
and instead rolls overhead like a never ending film.

For comic effect the artist has installed a cold shower
in every room
and switches it on without warning. It's fun.
A playful gesture. Something the kids may have thought of ...
Playing a game of hide and seek somewhere in the Windhouse.
Sometimes he thinks he can hear their footsteps
drumming in his ears
or, at night, their voices
in the tops of the plane trees, singing.