



The big transformation . . . work on the 200-year-old former textile mill begins on the left — and the finished space age home is pictured on the right

Homemakers

TV puts the spotlight on couple's mill conversion

By JENNY PARKIN

A HUDDERSFIELD couple invite four million television viewers into their futuristic home tonight.

Chris and Gill Heleine have converted a 200-year-old former textile mill in Nethererton into an airy, space-age abode with all mod cons.

The couple, who run shop and bar fitting company Heleine And Whattam in Meltham, spent a year overseeing the building work.

And Channel 4 show *Grand Designs* was there from the off. The full story is told at 9.00 tonight.

Gill, 45, said: "We've lived in 'olde worlde'-style cottages over the years, so this is a complete change for us.

"We had to start from scratch with all new furniture, because nothing that we'd had before would have looked right.



Spick and span: the outside of the former Nethererton mill, which has undergone huge changes inside. And all the work on Chris and Gill Heleine's home will be featured on TV tonight

"Even now, when we go home, we think, 'Is this really our house?'"

"It's 100% modern. You couldn't go halfway. But because it's so spacious and airy it's really calming and energising," she added.

"My mother, who is 82, said it was like something from a magazine. But it's grown on her. She likes it more and more. She says it is nice and peaceful."

Special features include a circular

shower, a plasma-screen TV built into the wall, underfloor heating, computerised lighting and instant boiling and chilled water from special taps.

Gill said: "The taps are my favourite feature. A kettle just wouldn't look right on the side."

Chris, 40, was a stickler for-detail during the year-long conversion. His mantra, says Channel 4, was "fail to prepare is to prepare to fail".

During the series, presenter Kevin McCloud follows eight sets of people on their building projects, to reveal the stress and turmoil of creating your own house.

Gill said: "It was extremely difficult to juggle work and the house with being filmed as well.

"But we had the confidence to go ahead with it. It was nerve-wracking, knowing that 4m people would be watching us."