



Above, wiring for Cloud 8's 'intelligent' building control systems. Left and below, the inverted gull-wing roof - a source of much anxiety due to its pioneering design



of The National Collection of Constructional Cock-ups') and was so drowning in bad luck that you just had to forgive him.

The pair seemed locked in some terrible Greek tragedy. Moral: the dangers of over-confidence. "Ere, 'eard the one about that man, no building experience, who thought he could make a state-of-the-art house with knobs on, all fancy steel and glass and complicated angles, with ▶

I hear the voice before I see the man. 'Can I have a beer, love?' What a voice. No mistaking it. And that laugh, like a scatter-bomb explosion, blasting everything in its path.

No *Grand Designs* fan can forget Tom and Judy Perry, the only *Grand Designers* to be given two episodes, largely because their house, Cloud 8, barely had its roof on by the end of the first show. But that wasn't all. The Perrys were magnificent characters. Judy played the long-suffering wife (though in person she gives as good as she gets) and Tom played Toad of Toad Hall and Captain Mainwaring, all bombast and ill-judged confidence. But he had such a great, self-mocking turn of phrase ('I don't want to be Chief Curator

