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Mr Ray Holding  
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Dear Ray

**Woolston House, Oswestry**

Some time ago now, I was honoured to win a prize during one of our networking meetings. It was a prize you had kindly donated and it involved a stay for my wife and myself in a guest house of distinction that you had decorated, both inside and out. It was in a delightful part of the countryside near Oswestry, Shropshire.

What a class venue. The residence, Woolston House, is now part of the unique and distinguished Wolsey lodges collection. The standards required for a guest accommodation facility to be included in the Wolsey brand are incredibly high. The owners have invested huge sums of money in bringing this fine Georgian country residence up to its present stunning condition. They have used only the finest craftsmen and that included your good self.

After staying in the Sandford Room, we fully appreciated the quality of the décor and observed some of the more difficult challenges in the intricacies of the architecture that you had to deal with. I even recall you telling me that the iron gates that front the property had no less than 15 coats of quality paint.

The hosts rave about your dedication to the job in hand and were particularly pleased with the professional advice you gave them during the project. They mentioned something which really sets you apart from other decorators. I'll never forget it. They told us about when you first planned the project. You sourced old papers and notes from within your family's archives so that you could give authentic advice as to how this type of period property should be treated.

A truly remarkable level of service and one that would be rare to find anywhere else.

When people engage Ray Holding on a project, they don't get a decorator. They get a highly skilled craftsman, an adviser ready to share his abundant practical knowledge and a professional who, I can put it no better way, pours love into his labour.

It comes as no surprise to me to learn that in recent weeks, one of the world's preeminent exponents of international architectural and interior design expressed her delight in looking forward to working with you. This lady's work is featured regularly in Vogue, Tatler, GQ, Country Life, Country & Town House, Financial Times, Spears, Hedge and Square Mile. Now they can feature as part of it the work of Ray Holding. Well done, Ray. You deserve every success.

Yours sincerely

Alan Lewis

