# Kurji family rebuilds dream home after rogue builder’s four-year ruinous saga



In the summer of 2021, the Kurji family anticipated a new chapter in their lives as they returned from a holiday to discover their dream home in Leicester had been reduced to ruins. Their hopes for a newly renovated residence quickly became a harrowing saga that spanned four long years, marked by significant financial strain and emotional turmoil.

The troubles began when a disagreement arose between Mr. Kurji and a builder, whom the family has chosen not to name. This dispute centred around a £3,500 payment, which Mr. Kurji refused on the grounds of unsatisfactory workmanship. While such disagreements are not uncommon in the construction industry, the ensuing chaos was anything but typical. During the Kurjis’ absence, the builder reportedly demolished the house, leaving it an uninhabitable wreck, causing devastation not just to the property but to the family’s lives.

In a shocking twist that mirrors other incidents involving rogue builders in the UK, where families have found their homes ruined over financial disputes, the Kurji family's situation highlights a growing concern in the industry. In a recent case in Stourbridge, a builder was sentenced to prison for causing similar devastation to a home meant for a disabled child, illustrating the dire consequences of neglect and poor practices in construction.

Returning from holiday, the Kurji family was met with the sight of their home stripped bare and strewn with debris. As the months turned into years, they found temporary refuge in a small bungalow belonging to Mr. Kurji’s parents while they grappled with the aftermath. The £500,000 house on Guilford Road became an ongoing source of stress, with neighbours voicing their frustrations over the dilapidated state of the property.

Despite the challenges, the family’s resilience shone through. After a lengthy process, they were finally able to hire a new team of builders, carefully selected this time around with oversight from Mr. Kurji’s father-in-law. This close supervision was crucial, especially since they had lost faith in contractors following their initial experience. Together, they turned their once-dream home into a modern marvel, featuring seven bedrooms and open-plan spaces, encapsulating their vision of a forever home.

However, the journey was fraught with pain, as they faced community backlash. Some neighbours unjustly blamed the Kurjis for leaving the house in disarray for so long, expressing dissatisfaction with the newly reconstructed building’s aesthetic, which they felt did not blend well with the predominantly Edwardian street. Comments such as “it looks out of place” reflected a sentiment that has arisen in other areas where modern constructions clash with traditional designs. Despite these challenges, Mrs. Kurji has reiterated the importance of personal choice in home design.

Their experience is not an isolated incident but part of a troubling trend in which builders abandon projects, leaving families devastated. Cases have surfaced across the country, from incidents where families have been forced to spend significant amounts of money to rectify unfinished work, to extreme situations where builders resorted to destructive measures out of spite, leading to criminal charges. Just recently, a builder was jailed for using a digger to destroy retirement homes worth approximately £800,000 due to a pay dispute, reflecting the extreme lengths to which some individuals might go when things go wrong in the construction business.

Now, after four years of hardship, the Kurji family has finally reclaimed their lives and moved into their renovated home. With their relationship to their neighbours slowly mending, they are looking forward to building a life filled with warmth, love, and community. The saga has instilled a sense of caution, but they remain hopeful and eager to settle into their long-awaited sanctuary, a place they can finally call home again.

Moreover, their journey resonates with a larger community concern regarding safety and traffic management on their street, echoing sentiments shared by other residents worried about speeding vehicles in their local area. The Kurji family now desires for the council to take action and implement traffic calming measures that will enhance the safety of their community.

The Kurji family’s tale is not just about overcoming a personal tragedy but sheds light on systemic issues within the construction industry. It serves as a reminder that the choice of contractor can significantly impact the home-building experience, and it underscores the need for integrity and accountability in the construction sector, ultimately advocating for greater protections for homeowners.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14757111/How-worst-builder-Britain-demolished-familys-500k-home-refused-pay-bill-bitter-war-lasting-four-years.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14757111/How-worst-builder-Britain-demolished-familys-500k-home-refused-pay-bill-bitter-war-lasting-four-years.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/black-country/builder-destroyed-disabled-girls-home-26680154)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://inews.co.uk/news/uk/builder-ruins-family-home-40000-build-extension-kent-334524)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-47124432)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14757111/How-worst-builder-Britain-demolished-familys-500k-home-refused-pay-bill-bitter-war-lasting-four-years.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/hp/front/builder-forced-to-demolish-his-ps600-000-dream-home-after-council-ruled-it-was-2ft-too-tall-6835369.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[6]](https://news.sky.com/story/builder-jailed-after-filming-himself-smashing-up-homes-with-digger-in-pure-act-of-revenge-11655867)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14757111/How-worst-builder-Britain-demolished-familys-500k-home-refused-pay-bill-bitter-war-lasting-four-years.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://inews.co.uk/news/uk/builder-ruins-family-home-40000-build-extension-kent-334524)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14757111/How-worst-builder-Britain-demolished-familys-500k-home-refused-pay-bill-bitter-war-lasting-four-years.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/black-country/builder-destroyed-disabled-girls-home-26680154> - A builder in Stourbridge, West Midlands, was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison after admitting to fraud and aggressive commercial practices. Lee Millard, 37, had been hired to extend a home for a family with a severely disabled daughter, charging £75,000 for the work. However, he left the property in a half-finished state, destroying essential facilities for the disabled child, leaving the family without proper amenities. The court heard that Millard's actions caused significant distress and hardship to the family, leading to his conviction and subsequent imprisonment.
3. <https://inews.co.uk/news/uk/builder-ruins-family-home-40000-build-extension-kent-334524> - In Kent, a builder named James Patrick was hired to construct a ground-floor extension for the Spencer family, with a payment of £40,000. However, Patrick ran into financial difficulties and abandoned the project midway, leaving the house in a state of disarray. The family was forced to spend an additional £30,000 to complete the work, and the unfinished state of the house caused significant stress, nearly leading to marital issues. Despite legal action, the family faced challenges in recovering the funds due to Patrick's bankruptcy.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-47124432> - Daniel Neagu, a 31-year-old builder from Harrow, London, was sentenced to four years in prison after admitting to using a digger to destroy five newly built retirement homes in Buntingford, Hertfordshire. The homes, valued at approximately £800,000, were damaged in August 2018 following a dispute over unpaid wages. Neagu filmed himself causing the destruction, which led to the homes being demolished and rebuilt. The incident was described as a 'pure act of revenge' by the judge during sentencing.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/hp/front/builder-forced-to-demolish-his-ps600-000-dream-home-after-council-ruled-it-was-2ft-too-tall-6835369.html> - Steve Woodfinden-Lewis, a builder from Stockport, Greater Manchester, was compelled to demolish his £600,000 detached home after council planners determined it was two feet taller than approved. The planning permission granted for the property was for a two-storey, L-shaped three-bedroom cottage. However, the constructed house exceeded the approved dimensions and was deemed out of keeping with the surrounding area. Despite appeals, the council upheld the demolition order, leading to the property's destruction and significant personal and financial distress for Woodfinden-Lewis.
6. <https://news.sky.com/story/builder-jailed-after-filming-himself-smashing-up-homes-with-digger-in-pure-act-of-revenge-11655867> - Daniel Neagu, a 31-year-old builder from Harrow, London, was sentenced to four years in prison after admitting to using a digger to destroy five newly built retirement homes in Buntingford, Hertfordshire. The homes, valued at approximately £800,000, were damaged in August 2018 following a dispute over unpaid wages. Neagu filmed himself causing the destruction, which led to the homes being demolished and rebuilt. The incident was described as a 'pure act of revenge' by the judge during sentencing.
7. <https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/man-forced-tear-down-house-8099846> - A man in Birmingham was ordered to demolish a two-storey house he built on his driveway without planning permission. Initially granted approval for a single-storey garage, the homeowner constructed a larger structure exceeding the approved dimensions. The council discovered the unauthorised building in October 2021 and instructed its demolition. The homeowner appealed, arguing the differences were minor, but the appeal was unsuccessful, and the demolition order was upheld, leading to the removal of the unauthorised structure.