



Maria Peña and fiancé Jasin Boland with the key to her £500,000 gift-wrapped home. Below, the house in all its glory

Home is where the hearts are

By Nick Britten

TO ALL you men who think that a box of chocolates or petrol station flowers will do the trick on Valentine's Day tomorrow, Jasin Boland has put you to shame.

Mr Boland, a Hollywood film photographer, yesterday gave his girlfriend a £500,000 waterfront house – and gift-wrapped it into the bargain.

He used 5,000sq ft of wrapping and a 75ft-long ribbon to cover his gift to his fiancée, Maria Moral Peña, 29.

Miss Peña was flown in by helicopter to enter the four-bedroom house – after she had unwrapped it. Rather understandably, she said it was “amazing” and a “wonderful surprise”.

It took five workmen using two cherry-pickers three hours to wrap the house in monoperm, a synthetic fibre usually used for covering scaffolding.

The couple met three years ago on a film set in Berlin, where Miss Peña

lives. Always one for romance, Mr Boland proposed to her on the same spot last December.

The £495,000 house is on the eco-friendly Lower Mill Estate development at Cotswold Water Park near Cirencester, Glos. The site is home to Britain's only wild population of

beavers, as well as offers the nation's largest population of nightingales and wild grasses from pre-historic times.

Mr Boland settled on Lower Mill after meeting its creator, Jeremy Paxton, who flew Miss Peña in his helicopter. Mr Boland set up the surprise by telling his fiancée they were going house hunting.

She said: “At first, in the helicopter, I didn't realise what was going on. When I saw the wrapped house, I thought it was a construction area. Then when I saw the hearts, I was completely overwhelmed. He's just so cute.”

The couple plan to marry and live permanently in Britain.



YOUR VIEW

What would be your ultimate Valentine's present?

telegraph.co.uk/yourview