



*How to enhance and improve a contemporary space*

# THE MINIMAL LOOK

Even if your self-build project is of traditional character, there is still an expectation for a contemporary appearance. Modern day design is now minimal, with uncluttered clean lines, it's almost as if life is already busy enough that we don't need more disorder in the home as well as in our personal lives. But it's the versatility of slick design that can be

incorporated into a range of styles and tastes that adds to this appeal of the minimal look. But how do you achieve this look? It's all in the details, choosing the right windows for your project can be critical, but not only this, fixtures and fittings can really enhance and help to bring out the features you want to highlight.

Contemporary designs for windows and

doors focus around a few aspects – minimal framework, square edge detailing and large glass expanses. Aluminium is usually the material of choice here. It gives you the neatest, slimmest and squarest edge finish possible in a durable framing material that's easy to maintain, colour and clean.

For the smallest sightlines, designers and builders should opt for sliding doors

and windows. As these elements are always supported along the base of the moving element, the supporting framework can be much smaller with sightlines of as minimal as 21mm.

These types of sliding doors typically can hold large panels of glass creating a striking glazed aesthetic with the highest performing systems holding up to 12m2 of glass per

sliding panel. Floor tracks are generally flush for step free access and to further enhance that minimally framed appearance.

There are many 'minimally framed' sliding solutions on the market, some better than others. Whichever decision you make, ensure that the frameworks used are thermally broken and use an insulated glass unit (double or triple glazed units) to

provide the required thermal performance. Also ensure that the systems have been fully weather tested for air permeability and water tightness. A lot of these systems are designed in countries with milder climates, the last thing you want if wind whistling through your fantastically slim framed glass doors.

Another option for self-builders and designers is a flush glazed window and



doors system. Here there are no externally protruding frameworks, instead the external panel of the glazed element is stepped over the supporting framework in order to hide this frame and create a flush glazed external façade. These can come in different styles of doors and windows as well as fixed units and can be mixed together in numerous ways to create large, uniform glass facades integrating venting and opening units with fixed in a single construction.

Because of the constructed nature of these types of windows and doors they typically have extremely good thermal, acoustic and security performance as well as high level performance for weather resistance. Flush glazed windows and doors are also uniquely suited to marine environments or harsher elements as the fully glazed external appearance is easy to clean and maintain.

