

Focus on Glass



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

A two-tier glazed extension. Bespoke conservatories, from £35,000, Malbrook

A glass link can be used to connect separate outbuildings. Bespoke link conservatory, Bartholomew.

Consider placement – south-facing rooms will get much more light than north-facing.

Oak timber framed building and extensions, Border Oak

An independent, linked structure. Structural glazing, from £2,800-£3,500 a sq m, Trombe

A pitched roof, combining both glazed and tiled sections, guarantees daylight. Shaker kitchen from £18,000, Harvey Jones

A two-storey, contemporary glazed structure, GlasSpace.

spaces may want to consider more intricate apertures and the addition of clerestories or decorative glazing. Oval, circular and domed styles are often specified for stairwells and imposing entrances. However, it is in the utilising of space down the side of a house or between adjoining properties, that the lantern has proved most popular in recent years: not only does this create a light-filled room but it sheds light into the rooms beyond, too.

Whilst many lanterns are erected during construction stage, the majority of existing flat roofs can be remodelled to suit the addition of one or more lanterns. "The span is dealt with by steels which can be manufactured up to huge lengths, so the main effect on design will be the thickness of the flat roof, plus the length of glazing (up to 4.5m) and the depth of rafter

required to support it," explains Rawden Rogerson of Bartholomew.

CLEAR THINKING

Of course, any significant expanse of glazing brings with it issues of energy-efficiency; and double, or even triple, glazing is essential to reduce heat loss whilst also being a regulation requirement. **Opting for glazing which combines a low-emissivity coating with argon-gas filled units will ensure maximum insulation. It is also possible to install specialist heated glazing thanks to companies, such as IQ Glass, who utilise electricity and conductive coatings to turn glass into a heat source.**

Those considering south-facing structures, may also wish to consider a solar coating, to help prevent overheating in summer. In terms of ventilation, automated systems will always prove a viable

option, as these can be programmed to maintain a pre-determined temperature, as well as closing roof vents when rain is detected.

For ease of upkeep, Rogerson, recommends "self-cleaning glass to minimise maintenance in hard-to-reach areas." An advisable addition over all large expanses of glazing, this consists of a coating that employs rainwater and sunlight to break down dirt; and which, when combined with durable powder-coated aluminium, can all but eradicate regular maintenance of both the glass and framework. Frameless structures, where glazed panels are secured through the application of structural glass beams and reinforcing silicones or adhesives, will not require frame maintenance, but could too benefit from self-cleaning glass. ■