



MAINTENANCE MATTERS



Chris Carter, head of product marketing at EVEREST, highlights material and glazing maintenance issues when choosing a conservatory

In general, timber conservatories suit traditional properties and aluminium and uPVC conservatories are more appropriate for modern homes. Some non timber designs can, however, be suitable for period homes and critically, these materials are low maintenance and do not require the painting and upkeep that a timber conservatory might. It is vital to consider planning regulations, as some period properties may not be allowed to have a uPVC conservatory.

ALL GLAZED OVER

There are various glazing options for conservatories, which will help keep maintenance to a minimum. Note that glazed additions are required to have toughened glass to comply with the building regulations. Self-cleaning glass biodegrades debris so it is washed off when it rains; solar glass reflects heat in summer, reducing solar gain, and you can also specify neutral, grey or green tints for an aesthetic choice. A good manufacturer will offer advice on energy efficiency ratings and U-values.

FLEXIBLE DESIGN

In terms of the range of styles, a classic conservatory is the most versatile. If you want to create space and open up your garden it will act more as an extension to enjoy the outside of your home, as brickwork is kept to a minimum. Owners of period homes need to look for a design where bricks and materials can be matched to the existing parts of your house for a more uniform and streamlined appearance.

At the other end of the scale, a super-modern glass extension can be an eye-catching contrast, allowing masses of light to stream in, as well as creating a flawless transition from the outside space to the inside of the home. However, a sleek, minimalist design calls for even more maintenance consideration, to keep the glass clean. >



Timber conservatory with arched window details and fully glazed roof with decorative ridge details; from £20,000, Everest



ABOVE Open plan orangery style extension with lantern positioned centrally over adjoining living/dining areas, price on application, Westbury Garden Rooms



BELOW Contemporary style aluminum glazed addition with minimalist sliding doors and frameless roof light; about £45,000 for a similar project, IQ Glass

