

Beautiful Kitchens: July 2008

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FOCUS ON

If you're planning to revamp your kitchen layout, make the most of the new design by utilising any outside space to create a light-filled scheme

Bringing the outside in

Hot on the heels of open-plan living comes the equally covetable concept of 'bringing the outside in'. Thinking of your garden, terrace or patio as though it were an 'outdoor room', complete with a full set of lounging and dining furniture, prevents you from looking at your interior space in isolation. Conservatory-style extensions go a long way to encouraging this innovation, with the popularity of large-scale folding/sliding doors enabling the back of the house to be thrown open to the light and spacious feeling of your outdoor area.

SLIDING DOORS AND WINDOWS

One of the easiest ways to bring more light into your kitchen is to include French windows or sliding doors in the design. Available in aluminium or timber styles in various colours, it's important to consider the final 'opening' you want to achieve – they have a large expanse of glass but one door slides behind the other, so the passageway is small. Folding-sliding doors, however, provide a bigger opening, while pivot doors open outwards. Your choice will depend on the exterior space – for example, pivot doors work best where the extension is the same width as the garden, so they can pivot outwards against side walls or a fence.



▲ THE WOOD OLD DAYS This stunning kitchen-cum-dining room has been created in a side return space. Polished concrete floor tiles link the indoor and outdoor areas, while a window and glass door flood the room with light. A similar ground floor redesign by Plastik Architects would cost approx £90,000



▲ GLASS HOUSE This fully glazed extension has been added to a modern house and links the kitchen and dining area to the garden on all three sides, while the exaggerated roof slope creates a feeling of space. By Apropos, prices start from £13,000

▲ RAISE THE ROOF A simple glass extension can be given infinite variations of shade and light with simple roof shutters. The New England Shutter Company supplies solutions in solid hardwood and various colours, from £317 per sq m

