

DESIGN & DECORATE

Extensions

Transform a little-used, forgotten area into a valuable and stunning living space



Side returns...

Most Victorian houses (and many others) have that little bit at the side that is just begging to be used for something other than storing the dustbins. These houses were built at a time when the kitchen was a purely utilitarian space, not the centre for relaxed, modern living that many people want today. Removing the side wall of an existing kitchen and building an extension up to the boundary can increase its dimensions by around 40 per cent, so that dream of a large kitchen/diner really could become a reality. And if your garden is already minuscule, building in a side-return won't encroach too much on your outside space.

A side-return extension can be an elaborate two-storey architectural affair, or a much simpler glass lean-to type of structure. For something more fancy it's best to consult an architect. They will help you make good use of existing space, and you may discover you don't need to extend out as much as you thought.

Another option is a conservatory or glass structure. Forget the type of thing your parents might have had in the Seventies. Today, many conservatory companies are branching out into modern glazed structures, such as Apropos, who have an in-house design team and can build aluminium and glass extensions which start from as little as £12,000. >



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06 Clever garden saver

Architecture.wk was able to add a bright, modern kitchen and informal dining 'pit' to this terraced house without using up too much of the owners' garden. Cedar cladding was used externally as it is a low-maintenance wood that will age really well. The entire project, including the Ikea kitchen, cost around £55,000.

A fridge for beer has been installed under the seating area, to maximise space and create a 'den' atmosphere.

