

PRESS CUTTING

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Glazing in admiration...

There's nothing quite like extra glazing to give your property the wow factor by making it more glamorous, light and airy. According to The Glass Report by Standard Life Bank, glass design is rocketing up the list of home must-haves. More than eight out of ten British architects have reported a rise in its use in the past five years, and 75 per cent recommend the use of extra glass in their designs.

Homeowners particularly like glass walls and bigger and better feature windows, skylights or glass doors. They are quite willing to fork out for additional glass for the home, typically spending more than £6,500 and going up to £15,000 in London and the South-East.

Add value to your home

According to industry experts, extra glass could well be a clever investment. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors estimates that building a glass extension or conservatory could add as much as five per cent to the value of a property.

Glazing can be added to any part of your home but there are rules. Building regulations state that glazing should be restricted to 22.5 per cent of the total floor area of the home. At the same time, extension plans must be checked by an environmental assessor to make sure they comply with new regulations stipulating that home improvements



Good-lookin' cookin': Mark Swan transformed his kitchen using glass

Heated glass, for example, sandwiches a tiny layer of heat-producing cells – a bit like a glorified car windscreen; this means that glazing panels can act like radiators, preventing cold air coming in and warm air escaping. 'And this is only about 16 per cent more expensive than standard glass,' says Clarke. 'Using glass is definitely getting more affordable. I added a glass roof to my kitchen for £7,500, about the same price as using more traditional materials.'

Mark Swan of Dulwich, South



Heated glass: George Clarke

to see the outside space, too. He called in specialist glass extension builder Apropos, which replaced the existing brick-built kitchen area with a design dominated by glass panels and doors which open into the garden.

'The kitchen had to be rearranged so that the eating and socialising area could be next to the room,' says Mark.

'We didn't add more space – just followed the footprint of the existing house – but the kitchen is

NO GAIN WITHOUT PAIN

● Consider adding a glass box extension on to your home which can be as much a part of your garden as your home

● Sliding or folding glass doors invite the outside into your home and make any room feel twice as big

● Install glass into areas of upper floors where you have a dark room beneath to add light while creating a dramatic architectural space

● Glass staircases with glass balustrades can be a powerful design feature – but pricey

● Think carefully about how you will light the glass at night. Glass comes to life if lit in the right way

● Install roof windows or skylights. Even the smallest skylight can flood a tiny space with light and it is very economical to do

● Self-cleaning glass is a new technology. Use it on a glass roof extension and you won't have to worry about cleaning

● Glass manufacturers offer a range of finishes, including clear, etched or frosted. You can have personal designs etched or printed on to the glass

● Consider using coloured glass in your home as coloured light can transform a space into something unique

● Glass can be very ecologically friendly as it is efficient to recycle. Make sure your glass manufacturer or supplier has the highest