

Circulation: 38,000

Rate card: £525.00



LEFT: Apropos' contemporary take on a traditional design is an unassuming complement to the historic main building. Prices start from around £13,000.
ABOVE: The exaggerated pitch of this conservatory's roof reflects that of the original property. Designs by Frost Conservatories start from around £18,000.

USEFUL CONTACTS

- Apropos 0845 434 8901
or www.apropos-conservatories.com
- Fantasia Ceiling Fans 01959 564 440
or www.fantasia-fans.co.uk
- Frost Conservatories 01767 640 808
or www.frostconservatories.co.uk
- Oakleaf Conservatories 01904 690 401
or www.oakleafconservatories.co.uk

What our team of experts says...

Q I'm thinking of having a conservatory added to my late 19th century home. Will it be possible to match the styling of the property's original fenestration?

A Provided you approach a company that offers tailor-made conservatories, you'll certainly be able to do so. A specialist firm's designers will pay intricate attention to detail to ensure that your extension blends beautifully with the original property and its environs in every aspect. Many different architectural styles were in evidence during the Victorian era, and at various times 19th century designers revived features such as Gothic arches, as well as making subtle changes in the classic sash window. A hand-crafted conservatory will cater for these idiosyncrasies – from the structure's overall shape right down to the proportions of glazing bars and the details of any mouldings. Even unusual details such as coloured glass can be reproduced in panes that meet modern demands, allowing you to easily match the traditional features of your property.

Jill Bradley, Oakleaf Conservatories



Q I have a south-facing lean-to conservatory, which could benefit from having better ventilation during the summer months. What can I do?

A A ceiling fan could be the ideal choice. They generally come in three sizes, referring to the blade span – 91cm (36"), 107cm (42") and 137cm (54"). The smallest of these should be avoided in a conservatory, as they won't be able to deal with heat build-up in its roof. For a particularly large space, consider fitting two fans. On a lean-to like yours, the roof section will be at an angle, so choose a model that can be mounted on a slanting surface. You'll also need a suitable drop rod – a 30cm (12") or 45cm (18") version should drop the blades sufficiently below the angle of the roof. The rule is that the tips of the ceiling fan must be at least 18cm (7") clear of any obstruction in order to generate efficient air movement. Remember that a large fan on a lower speed is less obtrusive than a smaller model whizzing around on a constant high speed.

Richard Moore, Fantasia Ceiling Fans



Q I'd like to add a conservatory to my Victorian country home – could you let me know what materials and finishes would be most appropriate for this extension?

A If you choose to have a bespoke conservatory constructed, you'll be in a great position when it comes to matching it to the heritage of your home – important elements such as the roof pitch and window proportions will be designed to help the new part of your building blend in effectively. Timber is invariably an excellent choice for the basic frame, as it has that inherent traditional feel. You'll be able to use microporous paints to finish it, which will allow the fabric of your extension to breathe in much the same way as the rest of your home – you may even decide to use the same pigment for both. Of course, the final finish will have a huge bearing on how successfully the structure fits into its surrounds. Natural colours will complement the 'wallpaper' of the conservatory – the lush greens and browns of the garden, which appear through the transparent glazing.

Charles Frost, Frost Conservatories

