

PRESS CUTTING

Period Living: April 2008

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The glass extension

Inspired by the classic Georgian orangery, which started life as a free-standing structure fashioned from glass and stone, today's glass extension may now be linked to the house, but it still sports the classic glazed or lantern roof, thus coupling the benefits of extra living space with the addition of an overhead light source.

Often regarded as more flexible in terms of usage than a fully glazed conservatory, thanks to the addition of some solid walls, the glass extension allows light to not only flood the new space, but also penetrate the rooms beyond. This helps to lighten and brighten throughout. It's for this reason that the glass extension is considered the ideal solution when expanding darker scullery-style kitchens or opening up small or north-facing rooms.

However, it's also worth bearing in mind that a glass extension is a far more complex project than an add-on conservatory, and often involves the removal of external supporting walls, making it a much more disruptive process. What's more, a glass extension is far less contained than a conservatory and more an integral part of your home. So be prepared to address the implications of relaxing the boundary between house and garden, and consider not only integrating the new extension with your existing layout, but consider how the adjoining landscape will ultimately appear from the house.

1 The formal grandeur of the traditional Georgian orangery makes it a popular template for today's glass extension, whilst matching detailing such as windows and masonry will ensure it blends effortlessly.

Orangery, from around £30,000, Marston & Langer

2 A glass extension or link is likely to have much less impact on the original building than a solid structure and could prove the ideal compromise when working with a listed building. Glass roof and gable, £33,000, Apropos Tectonic



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CONSERVATORY LIVING

Simple lean-to extensions

The classic lean-to with its simple design is the perfect solution for both town and country homes and, although ideal for the compact plot, it does work equally well in more open settings. At its most basic, the lean-to consists of a rectangle topped with a straightforward pitched roof. This pitch is eminently variable, making it a popular >



1 Traditionally the lean-to is built on a dwarf wall constructed from brick or stone, which should mirror the materials of the existing house. Conservatory, from £25,000, Alitex

2 The instantly recognisable rectangular shape of the lean-to ensures maximum usable interior space. The Belton six-pane conservatory, from £18,000, The National Trust Conservatory Collection

3 The simplicity of the lean-to structure makes it useful for more compact dwellings and it can also be used to echo perfectly the pitch of single storey roof lines. Glass lean-to, £30,000, Apropos Tectonic

4 For maximum light and space consider running a lean-to along the entire length of the back of the house. Bespoke conservatory, from £20,000 (plus VAT), Vale Garden Houses

