

Designs on the past

Most period-property owners will look to the past – and particularly the Georgian and Victorian eras – for inspiration when choosing a conservatory. This, however, should be only a starting point. For the best results, consider the age of your house and whether the conservatory is in harmony with it

Georgian grandeur

Originally designed to overwinter tender plants and provide a place to entertain in summer, the orangery started life as a grand, free-standing structure fashioned from glass and stone. Today it is likely to be linked to the main building, but it will still be classical in styling with emphasis on symmetry and scale



1 With classical pilasters and window design, this timber orangery with dwarf wall would work well on any large period home where symmetry was required. **Belton four-pane conservatory**, from £18,000, The National Trust Conservatory Collection

2 Ensure Georgian glazing bars are not too wide or clumsy, and come complete with raised rather than modern flat mouldings.

Georgian-style conservatory, from £23,500, Vale Garden Houses

3 Imposing stone orangeries are better suited to larger houses. This country orangery is visually tied to the house through the use of decorative brick and flint. **Stone country orangery**, from £29,400, Marston & Langinger

4 Bold lines and classical detailing make this orangery a more formal alternative to the glass conservatory, and also more solid in appearance. **Orangery**, from £20,000, Amdega

5 A roof lantern may not adhere to the classical principles, but does lend grandeur and elegance to the design. Here it is teamed with traditional Georgian arched fan windows, known as clerestories. **Classic conservatory**, from £35,000, Oak Leaf Conservatories



To add a conservatory to a listed building, you will almost certainly require planning permission – and you will need to be mindful of the design and choice of materials if your local planning department is to look favourably on your application'

Michael Barnes, Apropos

