

MAKE YOUR CONSERVATORY WORK FOR YOU

While adding a conservatory that will be used as a separate room is quite straight forward, today's 'living space' conservatories and glazed extensions are much more complex. They need to comply with tough new glazing and heat loss requirements, as well as having adequate temperature control so that the space is pleasant to use in both the chill of winter and the heat of summer. To make the space a pleasant place to be, you also need to consider noise and how you will vent away cooking smells.

REDUCE NOISE

Hard surfaces (large expanses of glass plus hard flooring) and high ceilings will amplify any sort of noise from the kitchen area. This affects your choice of appliances, particularly your washing machine, tumble drier, dishwasher and any hood or extractor.

Integrated and built-in models will generally sound quieter than freestanding models, but choose those with low decibel levels, too. For dishwashers, anything under 47dB is considered quiet. The ADP 8000/IX Power Clean by Whirlpool runs at just 39dB, and there are models from AEG-Electrolux and Atag that run at 41dB.

FIT AN EXTRACTOR

There are three types of extractor to choose from – wall-mounted, island, and worktop. Wall-mounted models are pretty familiar; there are lots available – try one with a glass canopy. Island extractors are ceiling mounted above an island unit that includes a hob, and need to be ducted straight through the ceiling or along the ceiling and out through a wall – you will need to consider this if you want a completely glazed roof.

If you prefer to avoid roof fixings, a worktop or down-draft extractor is the answer. These are installed into the worktop and draw cooking steam and odours downwards and outwards via a motor and ducting below the worktop. While these are efficient and discreet, they can be expensive.

For a more glamorous look, try the chandelier-style extractors by Elica from DR Cooker Hoods and Whirlpool (see picture 13). Your kitchen designer will calculate the best size of extractor for your needs, based on the size of the room.

HEAT FLOORS

Under-floor heating is a must as large expanses of hard stone, ceramic or porcelain tiles will feel chilly, especially in the winter. Many of the suppliers of traditional-style conservatories can offer duct-style floor heating, where pipes

connected to the domestic plumbing system run around the perimeter of the room and the heat rises through grille-style floor tiles (this system can also use electric heaters running under the grilles). However, all-over under-floor heating is best for heating the room rather than just the floor. A wet system uses pipes containing hot water that run beneath the floor. It's easiest to install in new-build areas (such as the new conservatory section) but can also be retro-fitted to an existing room if this will be part of the new living space. However, in existing spaces electrical mat and wire systems are usually preferred as they are less disruptive. For more information on the different types of systems and local installers, visit uhma.info, the website of The Underfloor Heating Manufacturers Association.



'Hardwood roof shutters provide infinitely adjustable solar shading and privacy'

Nick Garratt, Director, The New England Shutter Company

PROVIDE VENTILATION & SHADE

To make sure your new room stays cool in summer your conservatory designer will consider: which direction the room faces, whether there is natural shade, what proportion of glass the building contains and so on. There are many solutions, from automatic vents and roof blinds to ceiling fans and remote-opening roof lights. Sliding/folding doors offer ventilation and fresh air. If blinds are the answer, allow £200 a square metre for bespoke roof designs. For a south-facing conservatory, only consider specific conservatory blinds. Solar R and Alu-Pleat designs from Appeal Blinds offer 85% heat reflection. Shutters are popular, too, and can be installed to shade the roof – allow £300 a square metre.



9 Blinds are a must with a large-scale glazed roof and add a lovely filtered light. Bespoke hand-painted kitchen, from £22,000. Osborne of Ilkeston.

10 Underfloor heating can work off the existing central heating system. Grilles cover convectors set into ducts. These ones are optional with a Marston & Langer conservatory.

11 Roof shutters are one of the latest ideas for shading large glazed roof spaces. From £317 a square metre. The New England Shutter Company.

12 Solar R blinds keep a room cool in summer and help retain heat energy when it's cold. From around £180 a square metre, including fitting. Appeal Blinds.

13 Evolution extractor, ref AKM804, with touch controls and integral halogen lighting. Around £1,200. Whirlpool.

14 Stone flooring is a hardwearing and practical choice. Levantine travertine floor tiles, col Ivory, around £54.95 a square metre. Earthworks collection, Original Style.

Traditionally elegant extension with cream paint work, roof blinds and flooring. From around £30,000. Marston & Langer.

