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Design considerations

With all the extra space gained, planning a kitchen in a new extension will be a pleasure, but it's important to make sure the working heart of the kitchen remains relatively compact. When faced with as much as double the space of the original kitchen, it's tempting to fill the new room with cabinetry. However, most kitchen designers recommend keeping the distances between the main areas of cooking, cooling and preparation relatively close together and instead using the additional area for dining or a cosy, soft seating area.

'The extension and kitchen should be planned hand in hand so that practical issues such as the positioning of services, electrics, radiators or underfloor heating are considered at the outset,' adds Charlie Smallbone, chairman of Smallbone of Devizes. If there's a lot of glass in your new extension, avoid using materials that might get bleached by the sun – cabinets finished in dark paint colours for example. Some rich woods like cherry and walnut will



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also show sun damage much more readily than paler species such as oak or beech. The most successful extensions blend seamlessly with your existing home on the inside as well as out, so try to use the same flooring throughout and unite colours and finishes via furniture, walls and decorative pieces. →

1 This conservatory made by Bartholomew uses a hardwood called Utile and is painted in Leaf Green. A similar project would cost around £35,000

2 A beautiful glass topped island unit adds colour to this combined kitchen and dining room.

Kitchens from Harvey Jones' Classic Shaker range start at £17,000 3 Lantern ceilings can enhance the feeling of height and light. This hipped lantern ceiling is from Glass Houses by Jeremy Uglow.

Prices from £7,000 4 This basement kitchen has been extended into the courtyard. Bespoke kitchens by Thomas & Thomas cost around £30,000

COOKING UNDER GLASS

Kitchens can be very warm, especially while cooking is in progress, so if you are considering a lot of glass it's important to install blinds that will help reduce glare (try Hillarys or The New England Shutter Company, which both supply specialist ceiling blinds). Of course, decent extraction is just as important in a glass-clad kitchen as it is in a regular kitchen, but for a really comfortable atmosphere year round, air conditioning is an excellent solution. Celsius Air installs units that are self-contained, can heat or cool and require minimal pipework externally. Velux also manufactures electronic skylights that can be operated by remote control and fitted with automatic rain sensors, allowing the room to be naturally vented without risking wet worktops.

The type of glass used will affect the ambience in your new kitchen. It's important to ensure the glass not only conforms to building regulations but also has thermal properties that won't leave the space feeling icy. Specialists GlasSpace recommend low-emission double-glazed panels (Low-E) that are coated with metal oxide to retain heat. To prevent sweltering during the summer months, opt for solar control glass (try Pilkington's Solar E glass) that can reflect away up to 90% of the sun's heat.

BELOW These hardwood shutters from The New England Shutter Company can be custom made to fit all roof angles. Prices start at £310.26 per sq m



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