

Media Outlet: *Good Homes*

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GoodHomes

MAXIMISING LIGHT | SOURCE BOOK



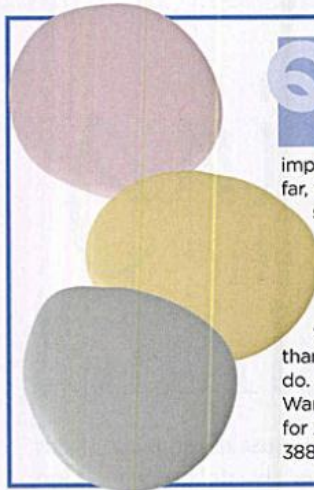
I'm extending my kitchen. What are the pros and cons of incorporating a glazed roof?

A glazed roof will help bring light into your kitchen. 'It can work wonderfully well when doing a side-return extension to a terraced or semi-detached house where maximising daylight into the house is vital,' says Hugo Tugman from Architect Your Home, 0800 849 8505, architect-yourhome.com. 'An important factor to consider is heat-loss/heat-gain. Even triple-glazed roofs lose heat far more readily than a solid insulated roof and it's important to comply with the building regulations.'



How can I make my rooms brighter on a budget?

If home improvements are a step too far, then go for a decorative solution instead. Make sure your walls aren't absorbing the daylight that does reach them by choosing pale shades that will reflect rather than absorb, as dark colours do. Natural paint in Laylock; Warm Stone; Sky Blue; all £25 for 2.5ltr, Pots of Paint, 01544 388535, potsofpaint.com.



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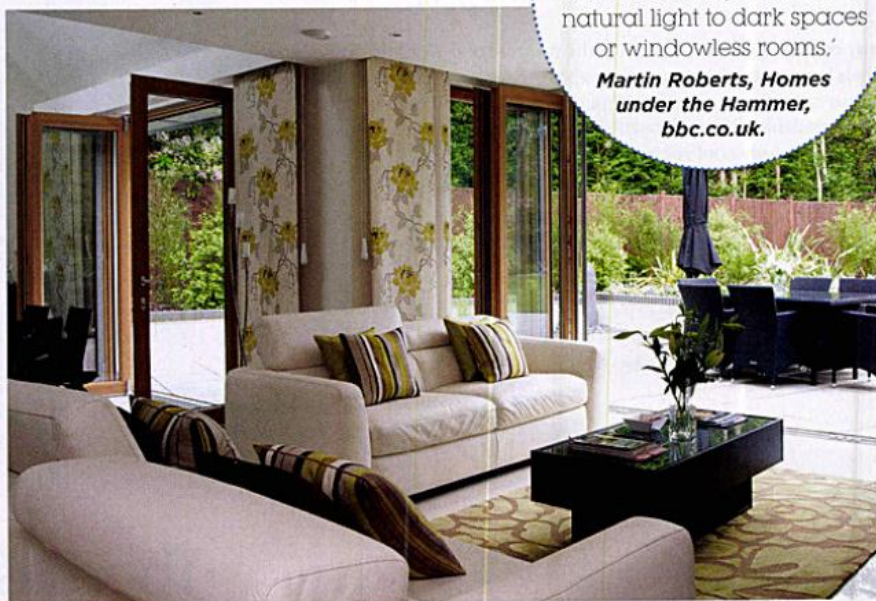
Let in the light

Maximise the daylight in your home with these projects, improvements and great ideas



Can I swap French windows for folding, sliding doors?

Bi-fold doors will allow you to let in more light by glazing across a greater width, as well as opening up your room to the outside space. You will need to take professional advice regarding structural support for the wall and to ensure your choice adheres to building regulations. When you're choosing, consider the panel widths and the size of the framing, as this will affect the amount of light that reaches your room. These bi-folding doors in engineered timber cost from £3,000 fully installed. Timber Windows, 0845 652 7300, timberwindows.com.



EXPERT ADVICE

'My number one tip for introducing natural light is a mirrored tube (such as solatube.co.uk). It can pipe natural light to dark spaces or windowless rooms.'

Martin Roberts, Homes under the Hammer, bbc.co.uk.

LET IN LIGHT

FEATURE SARAH WARWICK

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Q&A Curtains are making my room too dark. Help!

If your curtains can't be fully drawn back, they're inevitably going to block some of the light that could potentially be reaching your room. If possible, fit a curtain pole long enough to allow the curtains to sit against the wall rather than the glass. Alternatively, swap drapes for café-style shutters, such as these in Alabaster, from £169 per sq m, California Shutters, 0845 123 5661, thecaliforniacompany.co.uk.



Q&A How do I keep my windows sparkling?

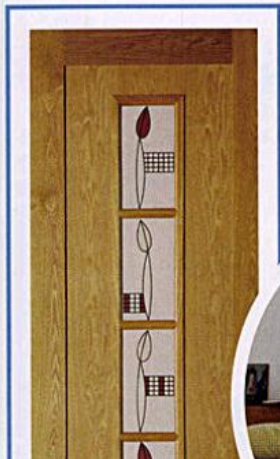
A super-clean window is, of course, a sure-fire way of making certain you're getting as much light into your rooms as possible. We like Mrs White's All Natural glass cleaner, £6.95 from Roullier White, 020 8693 5150, roullierwhite.com, which has a pleasant citrus aroma. Another of our favourites is Method Mint window glass cleaning spray, £4, John Lewis, 0845 604 9049, johnlewis.com.



EXPERT ADVICE

"Borrowed light" windows are an old favourite to get natural light into hallways and landings. Just place a window above a doorway.

**Dermot Steedman,
Dermarta, 07720 034805,
ratedpeople.com.**



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My hall is gloomy. What can I do?

Many of us live in homes that have hallways without windows, so the trick is to allow daylight coming through the windows in adjoining rooms to travel through to them. Solid internal doors create a barrier to light, so swap them for a glazed version. This is the Lenzie internal door in oak veneer, £179, B&Q, 0845 609 6688, diy.com.



Which blinds are best for a conservatory?

Luxaflex has many collections that are suited to conservatories where light and shade control is an important factor. Plisse and Duette are ideal, as is the new twist collection. Twist blinds allow you to control the amount of light and privacy you desire. Two layers of alternate transparent and non-transparent panels create an amazingly simple yet effective method of controlling light and privacy depending on your mood. Twist 600cm sq blind, £171, luxaflex.co.uk.



I'm having a conservatory built but my garden's shady. Any tips to make it lighter?

Take a look at this clever idea from Malbrook Conservatories, 020 8780 5522, malbrook.co.uk. Instead of timber rafters,

these are glass, and are a great alternative to amplify the light reaching your room. They can be used in a conservatory, orangery or roof lantern. The starting price for a Malbrook conservatory is £30,000.



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I'd love a glass extension. What do I need to know?

A glass extension will add fabulous light-filled space to a home. You'll need to check with the planning office at your local council whether what you propose to do needs planning permission, and the extension will need to satisfy building regulations, including those on heat loss and solar gain. If the extension's south facing think about a solar control coating or heat mirror film for the glazing. This frameless structure is from GlasSpace, 023 8086 6728, glasspace.com, from £37,783.

EXPERT ADVICE

'If you're getting skylights, consider new solar-powered designs, which close automatically at the first sign of rain.'

James King, Oliver James Garden Rooms, 01908 367177, oliverjamesgardenrooms.co.uk.



Can changing the furniture brighten

up my living room?
The right choice of furniture and accessories can definitely improve the level of light in your



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room. A low sofa will help, particularly if it needs to be in front of a window. Check out this Woodgate three seater in Olive, £1,279, Love your Home for Less, 01483 410007, loveyourhomeforless.com. At a height of 78cm, it will block less light than a high-backed design. Furniture with high-gloss surfaces will also help reflect light.



Are rooflights useful?

For rooms with small windows – or none at

all – a rooflight can be a great idea. You might want to fit one in a long, narrow space such as a hallway or above a staircase. Alternatively, a big room that's dark in the centre could be helped with one. They can help create an airy feel as well, and are often

used in garden rooms. Styles include attractive lantern designs, as well as simpler squares. This design is from Apropos, 0800 328 0033, apropos-conservatories.com, where rooflights cost from around £3,600 as part of a larger project.



What's a stylish alternative to a net curtain?

Many of us have rooms that are more on show to the world than we'd like, forcing us to use a window treatment that balances the need for light with the need not to be overlooked. Consider these stunning sheers from the Momentum Sheers and Structures collection at Harlequin, from £50 per m, 0845 123 6805, harlequin.uk.com.

