

The

ENGLISH HOME

Celebrating the essence of English style

May 2015 | Issue 123 | £3.99 | UK Edition

LET THERE BE LIGHT

The decorative measures that create light & airy interiors

A sense of space

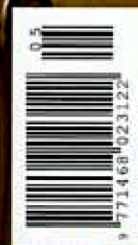
Opening up and out to reveal your home's potential

Attention to detail

- Eco-chic room design
- Gentle blush schemes
- Smart upholstery updates

Rural Romance

from cottage charm to enticing coastal hideaway



have in a space, the bigger it looks," points out designer Irina Townsend of Kier Townsend. "In fact, the more zones and features you have, the greater the perception of different zones within one room is created."

Of course, knocking down walls is not always a viable option, and simply choosing to remove or enlarge doorways can considerably benefit dark or compact rooms, both in terms of access and space, but also by borrowing from more generous light sources in adjoining rooms. Alternatively, repositioning doorways in the style of a classic enfilade – where doors are aligned throughout a suite of rooms – will allow for an unhindered vista throughout the length or breadth of the home. This can make any property appear more spacious instantly and aid flow, whilst "allowing the option of making the space more intimate, if need be," says designer Siobhan Loates, of Siobhan Loates Design – particularly relevant to the bedroom, dressing room and en-suite.

OPENING OUT

Increasing the footprint of a home will always bring rewards and, according to RIBA, 66 per cent of us wish for some form of glass extension. These airy, glazed additions not only enhance the light and space of an interior, but also establish a relationship with exterior landscapes. In addition, "the use of high-insulation glass and draft-proofing makes them a viable all year-round option," says Rawden Rogerson, of Bartholomew.

Traditional Victorian-style glasshouses or Georgian-inspired orangeries may often be favoured by planners, but those looking to preserve the integrity of an original building should bear in mind that modern glazed designs offer minimal intrusiveness when compared to a standard conservatory. An increasingly popular space-enhancing addition is extension into the often restricted, redundant exterior created with a side return – something commonly found in Victorian and Edwardian housing stock. Alternatively, inset glass structures and atriums, of all styles, can be employed to connect and unify disjointed areas, or simply open up a section of a room to, once again, improve space and light levels.

Siting an extension at the rear of the home is more likely to gain court approval, as will a sympathetic and well-executed addition. However, any new space also needs to work just as effectively with existing internal layouts in terms of access, flow and light-levels in the rooms beyond. Be prepared to remodel existing rooms, and bear in mind that open or semi open-plan formats can prove an effective aid to circulation within and between spaces, whilst ensuring good daylight saturation.

Adding on is, of course, not the only solution to lack of space. Prudent conversion of internal wasted areas, above or below ground, demands a viable relationship between old and new to ensure bright, accessible, useable spaces. ▶





TOP LEFT CLOCKWISE

A popular reason for knocking through walls is to create an open plan kitchen-diner or family room. Here, designer Irina Townsend, of Kier Townsend, removed walls and introduced bespoke cabinetry and furniture to create one large open-plan space with separate zones. Exposed beams can look heavy, but creative treatment in this project by Guy Goodfellow produces a lighter atmosphere. A wrap-around side and rear extension requires a surprisingly minimal footprint. Bespoke linear cabinetry in grey and book-matched American black walnut, Woodstock Furniture Maximum ceiling height and

natural light are essential for a successful loft conversion, so look to maximise light sources within both the roof and walls. Interior architecture and design, Wickenden Hutley Contemporary frameless all-glazed extensions are likely to have less impact on traditional-style properties and current thinking also considers it a more truthful option for listed properties. Structural glazing, from £30,000, Trombe Opening up the corner of a light-starved room can have a transformational effect. Milbourne Stone kitchen with silver granite worktops and birch end grain, from £10,000, Second Nature

