

AS SEEN IN

House Beautiful

A CONSERVATORY
LIFESTYLE SUPPLEMENT

featuring Ultraframe conservatory roofs



A photograph of a conservatory attached to a brick house. The conservatory has a white frame and large glass panels. It is surrounded by lush garden plants, including a large potted plant with yellow flowers in the foreground, and a large potted plant with pink flowers on the left. The conservatory is built on a brick base. The background shows a brick house with a white balcony and a garden with a brick wall and a large potted plant with pink flowers.

MONEY MATTERS

● You'll need to be realistic about how much you can afford to spend. Your budget and the size of your plot will, to a large extent, dictate how big your conservatory can be. But also remember that people tend to use their conservatories more than they expected, so don't skimp on space now.

Reaching first base

You've decided to build a conservatory, but where do you go from here...?

There's no doubt that most people would love to add an extra room to their house – and building a conservatory may well be the solution. Within weeks, you could have a dining room, a home office, a playroom, or even just a room where you can relax and admire the garden.

And adding a conservatory is probably much easier than you expect. Even if you live in an awkwardly shaped house, Ultraframe, Europe's leading manufacturer of roofing systems (a vital part of any conservatory), can help you. But before you reach for the *Yellow Pages*, remember that a conservatory will probably be your biggest investment after the house itself, so make sure you choose your supplier with care and insist on the best products.

You may already have a good idea what you want, but there's still plenty of planning and research to be done before you get started. For instance, you may find you can't build without planning permission, so make sure you check this out with your local authority before you commit yourself.

Then there are other practical considerations to think about. For instance, the direction your conservatory faces will make a huge difference to how you use it. While everyone loves a south-facing garden,

a south- or west-facing conservatory will get a lot of sun. This means it will retain heat in the winter, but you'll need a good ventilation system built into the roof to keep the air moving round in the summer. If your conservatory faces north, it's perfect for the summer but you'll need to think carefully about how you heat it during colder months.

You'll also have to prepare yourself for a little disruption when the building work starts. Depending on the size and complexity of the installation, you should expect the work to take just a few weeks. Although there may be some mud around, you won't need to move out because most of the work takes place outside your house.

And the good news is that when you plan properly and make the right choice, adding a conservatory will be one of the best financial decisions you've ever made. You'll have gained an extra room *and* it'll increase the value of your home, too. Conservatories vary enormously, but estate agents estimate it should add around five per cent to the value of your home.



CHOOSING A SUPPLIER

- **Splashing out on a conservatory is a major investment so you'll need to make sure you're dealing with a reputable supplier.**
- **When you've got a rough idea what sort of conservatory you'd like, get comparative prices but don't necessarily go for the cheapest option.**
- **Try to find a balance between quality of work, materials and price.**

You can always ask for references or go and see other conservatories that the supplier has built.

- **Ultraframe supplies many of the conservatory manufacturers you'll be familiar with from adverts on TV, in local newspapers and on radio (they make the windows, Ultraframe provides the roof), so you'll always find quality installation companies in your area.**

Taking shape

Nowadays there's plenty of choice when it comes to conservatory designs. Here's a round up of the different styles, from Victorian to Mediterranean, that are on the market

There was a time when selecting a conservatory for the average-size house was a simple matter, mainly because there was only one design option. But conservatories have changed considerably since then and there is now such a wide range available, it's difficult to know what to choose.

Your own lifestyle and, perhaps, what you want to use it for will dictate the design of the conservatory you buy. Your supplier will be

able to show you a portfolio of their work so you can see how the different ranges and colours look on other people's houses. You may also have friends who have conservatories – talk to them about how they chose their design.

And there are plenty of places to go for inspiration – some of Britain's best country houses have fantastic conservatories. They may be on a grand scale but they'll give you food for thought!

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

① EDWARDIAN/GEORGIAN

- What about plumping for a touch of Edwardian/Georgian style? With its clean, bold lines, this design will allow you maximum interior floor area so it's a brilliant choice if you've not much space to build on.

② GABLE FRONT

- The gable front is a distinctive alternative – a stunning design with an interesting feature window.

③ P-SHAPE

- If your budget can stretch that bit further, why not go for a P-shaped

conservatory? A combination of both the Mediterranean and Victorian styles, it's ideal for those looking for a large conservatory and is a great way of making the most of the space you've got.

④ MEDITERRANEAN

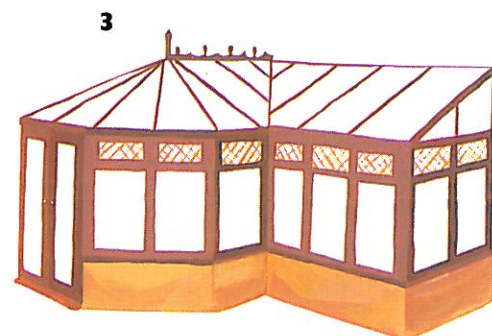
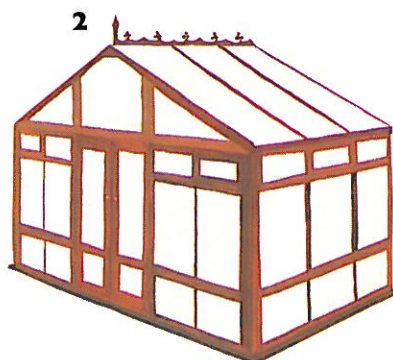
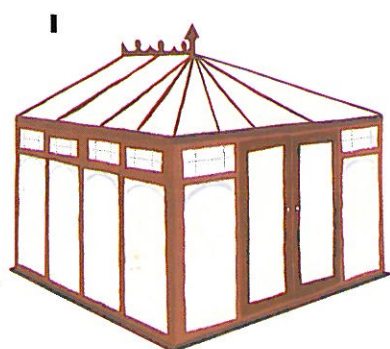
- If your tastes are more understated, there are plenty of different styles of conservatory for you to choose from, too. You could opt for a traditional style but still popular lean to (because the roof can go down to an incredibly low 2½° pitch – flat-topped essentially – it goes with a wide range of house types, particularly bungalows).

⑤ VICTORIAN

- A Victorian-style conservatory is one of the most popular designs around and can be adapted to suit all styles and sizes of house.
- You'll have the choice of three- or five-facet fronts
- The T-shape Victorian style is a variation on the theme. It allows you to make the most of the space you've got and is great for those who want a symmetrical look.

⑥ LARGE SPAN

- If you want a conservatory that needs to span a large area, for instance a pool enclosure, Ultraframe can still help with one of its large span systems.





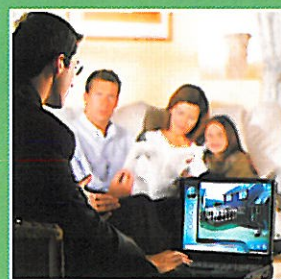
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TRY IT FOR SIZE

You wouldn't dream of buying a car without taking it for a test drive but for years we've been buying conservatories without being able to see exactly what they will look like on our homes. Now Ultraframe has launched a software product on CD-ROM that allows you to do just that.

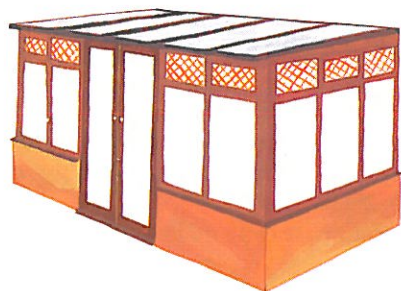
homeowners than traditional sales techniques. By using a digital camera image of the back of your house and the garden, the lap top presentation shows you what each design of conservatory will look like and also the view of your garden from inside the conservatory! This virtual showroom

Professional installation companies have found that sales presentations using this software are more easily understood by

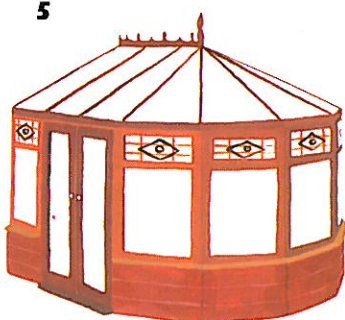


in your front room comes as near as possible to constructing the actual conservatory on your property.

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Once your conservatory has been built, don't forget there are a range of accessories you can add to give it an individual touch. For instance, fans, wicker furniture and plants will help to create a colonial feel



Testing the water

Take the step of installing environmental control measures in your conservatory and you'll find that it is much more comfortable

Condensation can be an issue for conservatory owners, but if you choose the correct specification it can be minimised. Ultraframe's roofing systems actively reduce the opportunity for condensation to occur. Their patented trickle vents in the ridge encourage air movement and reduce heat build-up.

On all conservatories it is advisable to fit the patented Ridgeflow Ventilation Unit (a thermostatically controlled ventilation

unit). This controls the atmosphere and keeps air moving day or night without posing a risk to security.

There are other ways you can help as well. Open the windows and doors whenever possible or simply open the roof vent (if fitted). Putting in some kind of permanent heat during the cold weather or increasing the temperature slightly in areas where condensation occurs will also help.



SHOWING YOUR TRUE COLOURS

Now it's time to start decorating your conservatory – but first you'll have to take into account which direction it faces:

- If your conservatory is going to be cool (north facing) you could try hotting it up by choosing warm and vibrant colours, such as terracotta, orange and red. Either use it for wall space or for furniture and fabrics.

- For warmer conservatories (south or west facing), think about choosing pale, fresh colours, such as light blue or primrose yellow, to help you keep cool all year round.

TOPPING IT ALL OFF

1 Glazing

Because you're investing a sizeable sum in a conservatory, it's reasonable to expect to get all-year-round use from it. With Ultraframe you can expect to find a full range of glazing options with good insulation properties.

2 Construction

In any conservatory the most important element is the roof – after all, it withstands all the stresses of the British weather. Over its 25-year life expectancy (as assigned by the British Board of Agrément – BBA – the government's approval body), an Ultraframe roof will have seen 450 days of snow, 15,300mm of rain and 9125 days

with temperatures in the range of -15°C in winter to $+35^{\circ}\text{C}$ in summer. And that's not to mention the gale force winds! Fabricated from structural grade aluminium, at the heart of each roof is a strong and rigid 'cell' that is capped and clad in low-maintenance PVCu. These unique design features ensure that an Ultraframe roof can be fitted onto PVCu window frames, of course, but also side frames of aluminium or timber. With an Ultraframe roof you can be sure there'll be no rot, rust, fading or touching up needed. And, in fact, in the last ten years, more than 250,000 conservatory installations have been completed featuring an

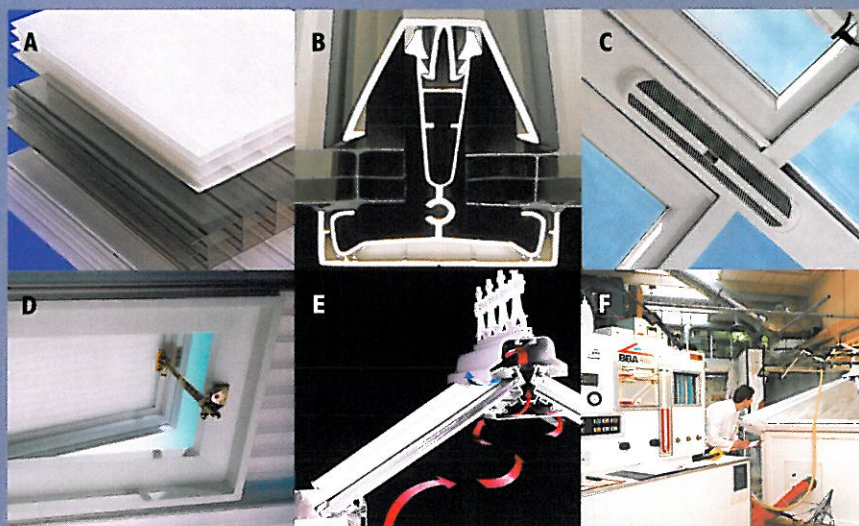
Ultraframe roof. So when buying a conservatory, insist on an Ultraframe roof!

345 Ventilation

With 113 patents granted and pending, this is further evidence that an Ultraframe roof is more than fit for its role. For example, each roof features built-in patented controllable trickle ventilation. Plus, Ultraframe offers a range of environmental control products such as fans, roof vents and a thermostatically controlled automatic ventilation unit.

6 Glare

Materials are available for reducing glare. Blinds are another option worth considering.



A. Polycarbonate roof glazing B. Roof construction C. Ridgeflow ventilation unit D. Roof vent E. Secure ventilation F. Independent verification of performance

SAFE IN THE KNOWLEDGE

with the Ultraframe roofing system

The roof is one of the most critical components in the conservatory construction. That's why the Ultraframe system was independently tested and certified by the Government's own approvals body for innovative building products, the British Board of Agrément (BBA) who assigned the roofs "a life expectancy of at least 25 years."

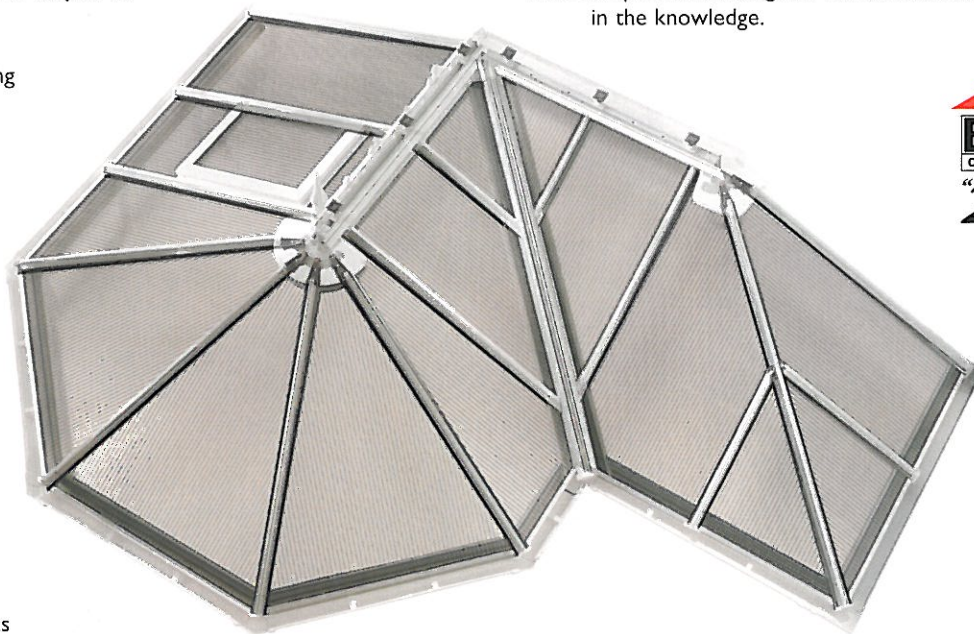
Over the course of its 25 year life expectancy, an Ultraframe roof would be subject to:-

- 15,300mm of rainfall
- 450 days with snow falling
- 57 days of hail the size of peas
- 9125 days with temperatures in the range of -15°C in winter to +35°C in summer
- 300 visits by window cleaners, house painters and aerial riggers

With 113 patents granted and pending this is further evidence that the roof is more than fit for its role. For example, each Ultraframe roof features, as standard, built in patented controllable trickle ventilation. Additionally, the company offers a further range of environmental control products such as fans, roof vents and ridgeflow, a thermostatically controlled automatic ventilation unit.

At the heart of each roof is a strong and rigid "cell" which is fabricated from structural grade aluminium, and then capped and clad in low maintenance PVCu. These unique design features ensure that the Ultraframe roof can be fitted on to PVCu window frames, of course, but also side frames of aluminium or timber.

In the last 10 years, over 250,000 conservatory installations have been completed featuring the Ultraframe roof, leaving you safe in the knowledge.



When buying a conservatory, insist on the Ultraframe roof.



Independent testing and verification by the BBA

DEALER

For more information on buying a conservatory, visit the on-line internet conservatory resource
www.ultraframe.co.uk

ULTRAFRAME
 Europe's Leading Conservatory Systems Manufacturer