



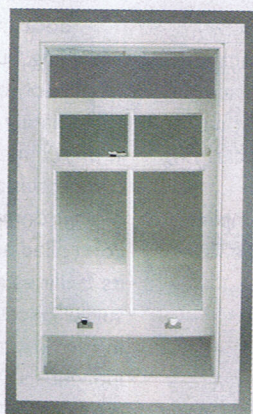
Grand designs

The style, shape and materials used in windows can transform the architectural design of a house. Gary Hutton, at Black Millwork, explores the various style opportunities and considerations.

Whilst window design may not be high on a builder's list of priorities, when specified correctly, fenestration with an emphasis on good design can add real value and really enhance the overall design of a property.

Many builders who really want to set their work apart from the norm are turning towards creative window design, to produce a unique environment where people will really want to live. Not only does this enable builders to put their own unique stamp on a property, it can add real curb appeal to the development's exterior, ultimately increasing its value.

For the best window designs, builders should look towards reputable manufacturers who can offer a comprehensive range of styles and shapes. To enhance the traditional box window, select a semi circular shaped style, installed above the original box. Such a combination is popular within high-ceiling applications, enhancing the high walls and providing the illusion of more space. With many homebuyers now looking for features that will truly set their property apart, builders should also consider circular, diamond and octagonal window shapes, to suit

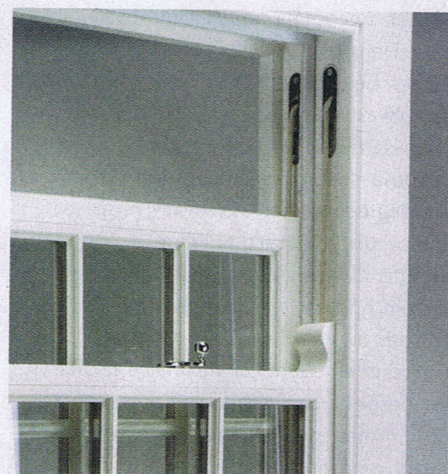


customers in search of a unique look. Indeed, for those building on more than one plot, why not use contrasting fenestration on each property, to provide customers with a truly personalised feel.

Frame and fortune

Slender frames are particularly popular for creating large glazed areas, and providing the illusion of a seamless look. Slim line frames also act as a great tool in letting in more daylight, which has proven to increase the wellbeing of a building's occupants, as well as decreasing energy consumption from artificial light sources.

When it comes to window design, it's not just the shape potential customers will be interested in, as the type and style of material used is of equal importance. Timber windows remain the most aspirational choice when it comes to window materials, as they can enhance the general feel of the property, inside and out, leaving it with a premium overall finish. However, in recent years, classic timber framed windows have often been overlooked in favour of their PVCu counterparts, with many fearing extensive upkeep and maintenance costs, to keep them looking good for years to come.



However, recent advances in timber technology and paint and wood care coatings means that maintenance time has reduced significantly, with repainting now only required every 5-10 years.

Builders should look out for any timber window that is FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) or PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) approved, which both state that the timber has been responsibly resourced and is sustainable.

It's essential to be aware of the latest window designs and trends in order to meet increasing consumer demands and expectations. A change in window shape or material are simple ways to add character and style to any property.

MORE INFORMATION

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