



A garden room interior with lighting designed and installed by Lightmaster Direct

a room for *all seasons*

There is an obvious appeal to rooms which let you to commune with nature whilst providing the benefits of a year-round sanctuary. Here, we look at some of the latest directions in garden room interiors...

When it comes to garden rooms, their unique position - linking inside with out - allows for plenty of scope with interior design. Being a room with so many possibilities (to dine, play, sit, work or entertain), styles that can adapt from day to evening living tend to be best.

While the traditional Victorian and Edwardian styles of garden room architecture are still very popular, there are several current trends in layout and design. Apropos describes one of the key ones as being based around 'emotional austerity' to reflect the financial times. According to David Waxman of Apropos, "Unfussy ash-greys and blacks brightened with severe yellows and oranges are this year's 'in' colours."

As for other trends, Woodhouse & Law, the Bath-based interior ▶



you will see the way that garden rooms have been subtly linked to the outdoor space.

Thanks to environmental architects and builders, there is also an increased trend for having a smaller "half conservatory" on the south side of a house, made up of slanted glazing and occasionally glass-paneled on only one or two sides. The smaller glazed surface area brings enough sunshine and warmth into the house in summer, whilst preventing too much heat from leaking out of the house in winter due to lack of insulation.

Flooring

First things first. As in any room, flooring provides the base upon which the rest of the design stands. While all types of hard flooring can look stunning in a light-filled garden room, the choice will most likely be determined by the room's main use.

For seating or entertaining, wood may be the best flooring. Or if you are planning on using the space for dining, stone or tiled flooring is both practical and looks beautiful. When you want to blend your garden and interior, all-weather flagstones or paving can be used both inside and out to

and garden design partnership, is in an ideal place to comment on the one room of the house which links the outside with the inside. Indeed, John Law believes that making a seamless transition from the architecture of the room into the garden is one of this year's big trends. "Linking indoor and outdoor spaces is definitely a popular trend among home owners", he says. "Bi-fold doors are frequently used to open up homes completely in summertime and can create a wonderful sense of space. In fact, we often recommend that clients use the same floor covering in the garden room and on outside terraces to create one seamless space." In many of the pictures in this feature

expand the sense of space. Finally, if you are planning to spend winter evenings in your garden room and need to keep snug with underfloor heating or a log burner, ceramics are the best conductors of heat.

Bath-based Boniti specialises in stone floors and has worked on a number of garden rooms, conservatories and orangeries over the years – one example is pictured on page 67. The company's website provides many flooring suggestions among its inspiring ideas. Mandarin Stone and Fired Earth in Cheltenham are also good sources of flagstones and slabs to create clean lines in a garden room.

For wood flooring, Cirencester's Authentic Wood

Floors should be a first port of call. Other recommended sources include Burford-based Town & Country which specialises in solid English oak, or ATC Flooring, in Cheltenham, which can create an aged-wood effect if you prefer a lived-in look.

A wool rug or sheepskin can also add a soft, lived-in effect. Since garden rooms are in such close proximity to the outside, it is a good idea to use rugs which contain natural fibres reflected in the outdoors. You will find a good selection at The Natural Rug Company, in Fairford, as pictured overleaf.

Furniture

Rattan, wicker, teak, oak, bamboo and steel: the list of options for garden room furniture is reassuringly long.



Opposite page: One of Apropos' contemporary garden room interiors.

This page, clockwise from top left: A conservatory interior with garden furniture from Oxley's; a wicker suite from Holloways; a 'half conservatory' from Apropos; The Rousham Suite from Import Cottage; flooring suitable for a garden room, from Authentic Wood Floors.



is a good source for loungers, chairs and tables (pictured far right). Import Cottage, near Kiddington, carries more traditional ranges of conservatory suites called Bibury, Woodstock, Tetbury and Blenheim. Another elegant example of rattan furniture is from Holloways. Its Chiswick Suite is pictured right displayed in a garden room by Spa Conservatory Company.

Lighting

You will want to be able to change the lighting from day to night in your garden room and it can also become part of the architecture of the room itself. "Roof lights and atriums are popular ways to bring the sunlight flooding in," says John Law, interior designer at Woodhouse & Law, "and also give the room a sense of depth perception and architectural detail." Lightmaster Direct, the Cotswolds-based lighting design company, sees lighting as the ultimate touch when it comes to completing the

perfect garden room look (as pictured on the lead page of this feature). "Hard floors tend to be a feature of conservatories and garden rooms, and therefore uplights are the perfect fitting, as the light bounces off the glass ceiling creating a sparkly effect," says Andrew Smith at Lightmaster.

Windows & Shutters

Surely the most important element of a garden room is what it allows you to see. Large and bright glazing can make the most of British sunlight, but having glass with a low u-value (which regulates the conduction of heat) will always give you a return on

investment with lower heating bills in winter, less air conditioning in summer, and greater use of the room throughout the seasons. Photovoltaic panels can be placed out of sight on the roof and make the most of the sun's energy.

Another essential factor in garden rooms is shade. Being in direct sunlight, especially in summer, is not always welcome. And at night, it is often preferable to have some privacy in the form of blinds, shutters or curtains. Shutter Perfection in Ludlow provides a wide selection of shutters for garden rooms ranging from traditional, classic wooden shutters to very contemporary designs. ▶



Opposite page, from top: Contemporary furniture suitable for a garden room, from Abitalia; a natural fibre rug from The Natural Rug Company.

This page, clockwise from left: Conservatory and furniture from Spa Conservatory Company; Gloster's Havana sofa in Lloyd Loom weave; Applestone orangery flooring from Boniti.

Finishing Touches

It is, of course, the smallest details that make a room. We have mentioned above how the 'lived-in' look can give a garden room its individual character, and one-off items help to really stamp your personality on the interior. Burford Garden Company is well known for its range of quirky and stylish designs, such as hand embroidered cushions and wooden boot-racks (pictured on first page). And one of our personal favourites comes in the form of The Old Rocker from Odd Limited, a soft furnishings company based near Stow on the Wold. Odd Limited specialises in garden rockers for both indoors and out. The one pictured above right is covered in Odd's own hand made Maud velvet.



Above: Odd Limited's Old Rocker, covered here in Maud Velvet, looks perfectly at home in a garden room.
Below: Lloyd Loom Furniture, available from Burford Garden Company.

Contact details:

- Apropos:** 0845 434 8901 / apropos-conservatories.com
- Authentic Wood Floors:** 07523 366 945 / authenticwoodfloors.co.uk
- ATC Flooring:** 01242 220536 / GL50 2TJ / atcfloorsanddoors.co.uk
- Boniti:** 01225 892200 / SN14 8JA / boniti.com
- Burford Garden Company:** 01993 323117 / OX18 4PA / burford.co.uk
- Fired Earth:** 01295 814399 / OX17 3SX / firedearth.com
- Gloster:** 01454 631950 / BS35 4GG / gloster.com
- Holloways:** 01886 884665 / WR6 5DE / holloways.co.uk
- Hutchinson Furniture:** 01608 684455 / CV36 5JL / hutchinsonfurniture.co.uk
- Import Cottage:** 01608 678303 / OX20 1BE / importcottage.com

- Lapstone:** 01386 841611 / GL55 6EG / lapstone.net
- Lightmaster Direct:** 01608 682115 / CV36 4PE / lightmaster-direct.co.uk
- Mandarin Stone:** 01242 530500 / GL50 1SU / mandarinstone.com
- Marston & Langinger:** 0207 8815768 / marston-and-langinger.com
- Odd Limited:** 01993 830674 / oddlimited.com
- Shutter Perfection:** 01584 873345 / SY8 4DX / shutterperfection.co.uk
- Spa Conservatory Company:** 01242 676822 / GL50 4SJ / thespaconservatorycompany.co.uk
- The Natural Rug Company:** 01285 711762 / GL7 4BW / thenaturalrugcompany.com
- Town & Country Flooring:** 01993 824331 / OX18 4JA / townandcountryflooring.co.uk
- Woodhouse & Law:** 01225 446393 / BA1 6AE / woodhouseandlaw.co.uk



I thought I needed a new kitchen until I discovered...



NEW
Replacement Door Service now available

the worktop that fits on top!



Book a FREE home consultation with our interior designer and we'll show you how easy it is to transform your kitchen worktops.

Call now 0117 962 5416

At Granite Transformations we offer a complete package for updating your work surface and appliances. Fitting a new worktop is fast and effective with each top custom made to fit your exact requirements. There is no need to remove old surfaces, we fit directly over your existing surface. We guarantee complete peace of mind from start to finish. Let us show you how we can transform your kitchen with our simply superior surfaces.

Bristol Showroom 91 Henleaze Road, Henleaze, Bristol, BS9 4JP
Showroom open: Mon-Fri 10-5pm Sat 10-4pm Closed Sundays & Bank holidays.

Factory Showroom (Off Feeder Rd) 4a Barton Hill Trading Estate, Bristol, BS5 9RD
Showroom open: Mon-Fri 8-4.30pm Closed Weekends & Bank holidays.

Bath Showroom 2 Walcot Buildings, London Road (A4), Bath, BA1 6AD
Showroom open: Tue-Fri 10-5pm Sat 10-4pm Closed Sundays & Bank holidays.

www.granitetransformations.co.uk/bristol



Granite Transformations manufacture and install Granite, Stone, Quartz and Glass worktops