



TRANSITION: A conservatory is a gateway blending the inside and outside. From top; Osborne & Little Sea Breeze cushions in a Gi Gi Lloyd Loom Chair; Vincent Sheppard Albert A Table & Avril Chair; The Plage Collection by Zinc.



BRINGING THE OUTSIDE IN

Interior designer **Jamie Hemsall** looks at creating the perfect conservatory.

The British home owner is passionate about many aspects of their dwelling, but we do have a particular penchant for conservatories. No doubt partly because our changeable climate means they are one of the only ways we can actually experience our gardens all year long – albeit from the comfort of an armchair.

They can be a relatively cost-effective way to extend a home and, if carefully planned, are likely to create a return on investment. According to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) they can add between four and five per cent to the

value of your home, dependent upon choosing a design sympathetic to the age and style of your home and in keeping with its environment.

Garden rooms are a gateway between inside and outside, so your interior needs to nod to the garden, but at the same time transition from the decor in the rest of your home. Flooring sets the tone and perceived temperature of your conservatory. Hard surfaces are best as they cope well with the strains of temperature change and sunlight. Marble or stone provide a superb upscale finish, but you can also achieve an impactful look with quality vinyl floorings (such

as Karndean or Amtico). Specialist vinyl-floor fitters can create sophisticated designs to suit modern or heritage designs, but ensure your fitter is using an adhesive suitable for a high heat environment.

Window dressings should be kept extremely simple to allow the maximum view. Sailcloth is a sympathetic finish for ceiling blinds, while wooden venetian blinds can provide extra privacy without hiding the view. When choosing a colour for window treatments either continue the idea of a garden portal by matching them to a shade visible externally throughout the year or blend into the background by toning to your wall or floor finish.

One of the nicest products for furnishing a conservatory in use as a davroom is traditional Llovd

SHINE ON AND ON

- Ensure you include plenty of electrical points in your conservatory for flexible lighting from table lamps to maximise use throughout the year and add wall lights on dimmers to provide controllable ambience.
- A central ceiling hook that can carry considerable weight, with electrical provision, will allow you to include a feature chandelier (important if using your conservatory as a dining room) or a powerful fan.
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Loom, manufactured from woven twisted paper and wire. They are extremely durable as evidenced by the ongoing market in vintage pieces. Vincent Sheppard and Lloyd Loom Manufacturing offer ranges of traditional and contemporary designs that cope well with changes in temperature and humidity.

Avoid dark colours in your upholstery, particularly red, as these can fade quickly in direct sunlight, but do not be afraid to opt for soft finishes. Consider incorporating fabrics designed specifically for outdoor, which are more fade resistant. The new Sea Breeze Collection from Osborne & Little, Malfa from Colefax & Fowler and Romo Zinc Plage all show “outdoor” does not signify bland or uninteresting.