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## BUYER'S GUIDE

# BI-FOLD AND SLIDING DOORS

Installing new doors to merge indoor and out can transform the dynamic between your home and your garden

If you want to replace the doors leading to a garden, balcony or roof terrace, or install doors into a new opening, there are a few factors to consider. The ideal doors shouldn't obscure a view and should maximise the amount of natural light coming in. They should also be secure and durable with low u-Values, so your internal spaces are a comfortable temperature all year round. Centor (0121 701 2500; centor.com) specialises in units that offer u-Values as low as 1.1w/m2K.

Whether you opt for modern metal, traditional timber or PVCu, forward-thinking designers and architects continue to prove that contemporary sliding and bi-folding doors can be successfully integrated into period and modern properties.

### Choosing the right fit

Both bi-folding and sliding doors are available in bespoke sizes and frames and can be wired to an alarm system. 'When deciding between sliding or

bi-folding doors, weigh up the pros and cons to decide which option is most suitable for your project,' advises Bryony Sandy of IQ Glass (01494 722 880; iqglassuk.com). If you're looking to get the best of both worlds, consider combining the two types.

To benefit from higher levels of thermal and acoustic insulation, you could opt for a triple-glazed system on

either model. This is recommended if you're using large amounts of glazing.

### Do they stack up?

Bi-folding doors are made up of two or more leaves that slide and fold to stack back on each other. These doors allow you to open an entire elevation of a building, creating a transition between internal and external living >

### 1 INSIDE OUT

Large sliding aluminium doors combine with integrated lighting in the overhang to connect the internal and external areas. (020 8692 9130; grufflimited.com)

### 2 CONCERTINA EFFECT

These aluminium bi-folding doors have been paired with slimline casement windows to offer a seamless finish. The glazing for this project came to around £16,800, including design and installation fees. (01494 722 880; iqglassuk.com)

