

BI-FOLD AND SLIDING DOORS

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

f 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?

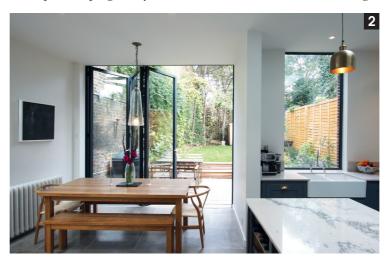
Bi-folding doors are made up of two or more leaves that slide and fold to stack back on each other. These doors allow you to open an entire elevation of a building, creating a transition between internal and external living

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; igglassuk.com)



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