

News Release



Orangeries bear fruit for Lonsdale

Richard Burgess, Sales and Marketing Director of Lonsdale Metal Company Limited, has noticed an increasing trend amongst architects, contractors and installers to incorporate his company's thermally broken aluminium self-supporting roof lanterns to create beautiful Orangeries filled with light.

The earliest recorded Orangery was built at Ham House in around 1670 to protect the exotic citrus plants collected by its occupants; dedicated courtiers to the Stuart dynasty.

The forerunner of the modern structures we see today, during this early period, orangeries were not elaborate buildings; usually a narrow stone or brick built room running along the side of a house with a slate roof and windows on three sides.

It was only in Victorian times, with the development of slim cast iron structures and good quality flat glass that complete glasshouses started to be built to 'conserve' all manner of plant species and artefacts brought back from warm climates during the glory years of Victorian exploration; the idea that came to its zenith with Sir Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace at the Great Exhibition of 1851.

Today, whereas a fully glazed conservatory tends to be a secondary extension, the Orangery with a glazed roof is considered to play a more important role architecturally and functionally. A more substantial structure than the conservatory, an Orangery contributes to the shape and aesthetic qualities of the overall building and provides an additional living room opening onto the garden.

It is generally accepted, the hardest part to maintain is the traditional glazed timber roof frame usually employed. This is why many architects now specify a modern, maintenance free lantern or skylight that meets the latest Building Regulations yet retains the traditional style and concept of the Orangery – see photographs.

SpanGard self-supporting lantern and skylights offered by Lonsdale are manufactured to exacting standards with units installed at The British Museum, 10 Downing Street, Cliveden and countless other important buildings and homes throughout the UK. Installers buy direct from Lonsdale so architects and their clients are offered competitive installation from a network of registered dealers throughout the UK. For further details, telephone 020 8801 4221 or visit www.patentglazing.co.uk



Orangery interior with SpanGard roof



Orangery with SpanGard roof

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