

The Architect's Column

Nick Belderbos, Chartered RIBA Architect and Director of Heswall based **architects-direct.com**, answers your questions and offers advice.

Verandas

Origin and History

The word veranda (also spelt verandah) means 'a portico or external gallery, with a roof, along the side of a house'. It is of Hindi origin brought to the UK from India.



Although not commonplace in the UK, verandas, in various forms, have been used across the world for centuries. The Romans often incorporated 'loggia' into their buildings. This was a partly enclosed external space, usually around an internal courtyard, enabling the inhabitants to stroll around the courtyard while being protected from the elements.

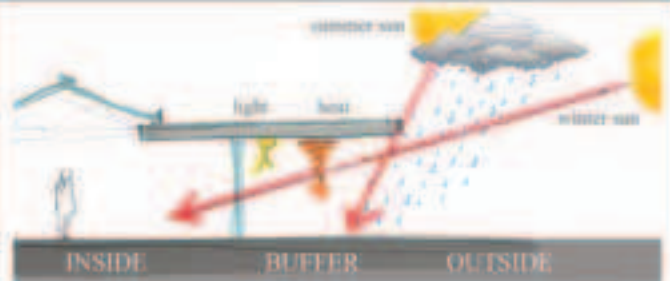


Relevance to Modern Buildings in the UK

There is a current trend away from conservatories towards light and airy orangery style rooms that can be used all year round. These usually incorporate large sliding doors or folding screens to create an indoor / outdoor living experience.



Modern cantilevered veranda



When considering an extension incorporation of a veranda within the design will create a buffer between the inside and outside spaces. This roof extension has a number of benefits:

1. Protection from rain

The roof overhang protects external openings from the elements. Rain will not enter the internal spaces when screens are in the open position.

2. Lighting and Heating

Lighting and heating can be incorporated within the roof overhang. The veranda becomes an outdoor room that can be used for longer periods of the year.

3. Summer shade

A roof overhang will allow low winter sunlight to enter the building. In summer it will shade the rooms from high summer sun, preventing overheating and glare.



Traditionally supported on posts with balustrades to the perimeter anything that extends the roof to form a covered area is a veranda.

Floor and Ceiling finishes

Extending the internal finishes onto the veranda will blur the edge between inside and outside and emphasise the veranda as a continuation of the living spaces.



For more advice:

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