

Let the sunshine in

Clerestory – a run of clear and story, or overstory windows – a row of windows well above eye level – have been in use for centuries. For example, slits were cut into giant slabs of stone in order to illuminate ancient Egyptian temples and halls. Since then, they have been a favourite feature in Romanesque and Gothic churches and other religious structures because of their ability to flood vast spaces with natural light. CAB chief executive Phil Slinger explores



Clerestory windows were installed for many centuries, before there was electric lighting and air conditioning.

In recent times they have been designed to bring in light without sacrificing privacy both in the domestic setting and commercial settings, such as gyms and railway stations.

Typically, they are installed right under the roofline. The combination of clerestory windows with skylights is a growing trend as they let in more ambient light, rather than lower windows which can let in direct sunlight. At night clerestory windows can let in moonlight.

Adding opening aluminium or slim framed sliding aluminium windows can add additional ventilation, and as warm air rises, opening windows promotes better cross-ventilation in a room or building.

Installing clerestory windows on the north side of a home, where the windows will not be exposed to the highest level of direct sunlight, will keep cooling bills down in the hotter months. The use of clerestory windows and an angled ceiling, called a sawtooth clerestory can deliver daylight deep into interior areas of buildings.

In the winter, south-facing clerestory windows invite heat in from the sun. In the summer, trees and window shades can help minimise excessive heat gain. Specially designed overhanging roofs can also shield the windows from sunlight or the window glass can be treated with a low-emissivity coating.

Installing clerestory windows between interior rooms can bring additional light into a space that may be cut off

from the sun. Rather than placing a traditional window in the bathroom, clerestory windows can be added to let in natural light without sacrificing privacy. In kitchens clerestory windows can be placed above the kitchen cabinets for additional light.

For walls not originally intended for windows or where otherwise there would be an unappealing view, or a close neighbour, clerestory windows can be the answer to allow light into a room or a home office to create a bright and airy space whilst limiting distractions from the outside world. It is also possible to frame views strategically so that there are views of the sky and/or tree-tops rather than of a neighbour's house, or to block out what otherwise would be an unpleasant view.

Clerestory windows are not limited to rectangular shapes. Clerestory style aluminium windows are a versatile and stylish architectural feature which can provide natural light and visual interest to a home or building.

Market roundup

Looking at the wider aluminium market, Verified Market Research has recently published its new research study into aspects of the Global Aluminium Extrusion market. It encompasses several research studies, such as manufacturing cost analysis, absolute dollar opportunity, pricing analysis, company profiling, production and consumption analysis, and market dynamics. The report claims the global aluminium extrusion market was valued at USD 79.65bn in 2019 and is projected to reach USD 119.59bn by 2027, growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 5.22 % from 2020 to 2027.

Meanwhile the UK curtain walling market is expected to expand from £2,272.5m in 2023 to £3,439.6m by 2033. Overall demand for curtain walling in the United Kingdom is likely to increase at 4.2% CAGR from 2023 to 2033 with future market insights with unitised aluminium systems holding a market share of 58.4%, and semi-modular segment growing at 7.1% through to 2033. The publication claims commercial space segment holds a 76.2% share of the market.

Plan for autumn

Autumn is now upon us and we have recently launched our autumn programme of webinars covering a diverse range of topics. Each webinar is scheduled to run from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. The full programme can be found on the CAB website at c-a-b.org.uk.

So, please feel free to join us with your lunch and make best use of your day – just remember to mute your microphone! We look forward to welcoming you online and hopefully, you will consider joining CAB. □