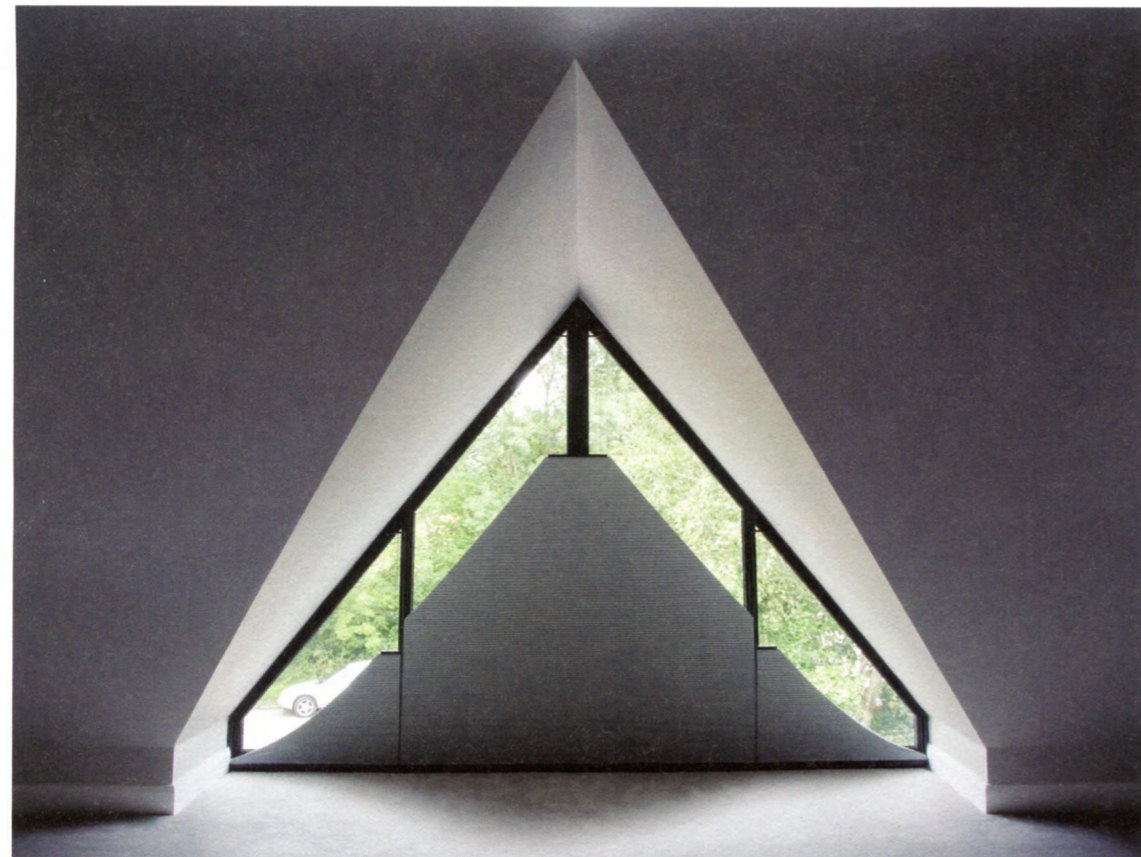


GRAND DESIGN BLINDS

Specialists in custom-made shaped blinds for even the most challenging types of glazing



Towering glazed gables, asymmetric windows, lantern lights, glass boxes and giant bi-folds all make impressive statements as part of a contemporary building but can be very tricky to screen – which is where Grand Design Blinds, the leading expert in shaped blinds and shading for the most unusual areas of glass, comes in. The company was set up by blinds specialist Jonathan Pelly-Fry (a founding director of Appeal Blinds Ltd which focused on conservatory shading) in 2012. Inspired by the dramatic glazing of modern seaside houses in Cornwall, he began developing responses to their unique screening requirements. Joined by his son Nick as Design Director in 2014, they now run the business together, offering high-tech solutions to architects, designers and private clients worldwide.

Grand Design Blinds makes and installs blinds everywhere from public buildings such as Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons and Worcester College,

Oxford to private homes, boats and even shepherds' huts. By definition, each project is bespoke and needs a one-off response that is tailored to suit both the individual needs of the customer and the geometry of the glazing in question. This is what interests Jonathan and Nick the most – when they have to adapt existing products or come up with entirely new systems. It's the ability to do this that sets the

firm apart from other blind companies who have rigid parameters that they will not stray beyond.

The pair are passionate about contemporary architecture (often where shaped glazing is to be found), but also love working with old buildings which present a unique set of challenges. A project last year, in partnership with Softroom Architects for Eurostar's Business Premier Lounge in Paris, was one such challenge. The 1860s Gare du Nord has large arched windows across the façade and the designer was looking to create a contemporary interior look without compromising the historic setting. Grand Design Blinds devised a motorised roller blind solution which was cut precisely

to the shape of the arches: these blinds retract discreetly into a cassette, offering shade when needed, yet appearing as part of the building when not in use.

All blinds are handmade to order in the UK and Grand Design Blinds offers a wide selection of fabrics and colours, as well as custom powder-coating in any RAL colour, if required. The company is constantly researching and innovating, and this year is able to provide extra-wide roller blinds to cover spans of glazing with a single blind. This system can be up to eight metres tall and over 30m wide if required, something which until now has not been possible. These blinds are ideal for a set of sliding doors as they run in a track down either side so will not blow around in a breeze.

Grand Design Blinds offers many different types of blinds which, combined with specialist materials and automated operating systems, allows them to create shading solutions for the most extraordinary locations.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Electric Duette® pleated blinds at a private residence, Wimbledon; electric Duette® pleated blinds at a private residence, Berkshire; electric roller blinds, Eurostar Business Premier Lounge, Paris

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Grand Design Blinds
+44 (0)1491 839746
granddesignblinds.com