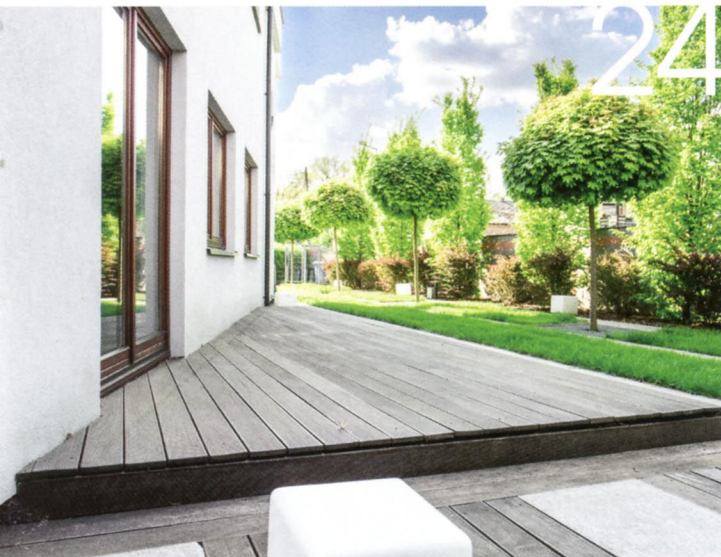


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Shaped windows look excellent, but covering them can be tough - Grand Design Blinds have an excellent solution for this.



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After Seven Integration were asked to assist on a property in Hampshire, the home automation specialists provided a host of services.



# Providing screening solutions for even the most challenging areas of glazing

While shaped windows are hugely impressive to look at, finding blinds to cover them can prove difficult - so Grand Design Blinds' flexibility provides an ample solution.

**T**owering glazed gables, asymmetric windows, lantern lights, glass boxes and giant bi-folds are all part of the language of contemporary buildings. They make impressive statements, but can be hard to screen - often a necessity for both privacy and climate control.

Grand Design Blinds are the leading experts in shaped blinds; shading and screening even the most challenging shapes and areas of glass. The company was set up by blinds specialist Jonathan Pelly-Fry 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, they now run the business together, offering high-tech solutions to architects, designers and private clients worldwide.

Grand Design Blinds make and install blinds everywhere from public buildings such as Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons and the Gare du Nord (shown left) to private homes, luxury apartments and yachts. By definition, each project is a unique challenge, needing a one-off response. Offering many different types of blinds in combination with specialist screening materials and automated operating systems allows them to create shading solutions for even the most extraordinary locations. All their blinds are handmade to order in the UK.

## Iconic buildings

Grand Design Blinds worked with Manhattan Loft Corporation and Fabled Studio on this 7th floor London penthouse overlooking the iconic BT Tower. The 14-metre-long open



plan living room and kitchen has sliding terrace doors and floor-to-ceiling glass windows... both of which the developer and interior designer wanted to screen with roller blinds.

A key element of the brief was that the roller blinds should be discreet, tied in with the apartment's minimalist aesthetic. To ensure this integrated look, Grand Design Blinds concealed the blinds behind slimline perimeter lighting and fabricated special bottom bars, colour-matched to the window frames. Manually operated, the extra-large roller blinds allow maximum flexibility in screening the windows and doors.

Built in grand country house style, this newly completed mansion, has floor to

ceiling windows flooding the open plan kitchen/ dining room with light from three aspects. With such large areas of glass, controlling heat build-up from sunshine is a big issue, requiring a sophisticated shading solution. Privacy is another important consideration, especially at night when interior lights are on.

## Responding accordingly

Grand Design Blinds' expert response was to design and install a fully automated system of electric roller blinds with motors controlled by light sensors. These smoothly open and close in response to ambient light conditions, keeping the kitchen coolly shaded and screened as needed. Manual controls can over-ride the automated system at any time.

Here, a massive glazed gable end gives spectacular views from the newly extended kitchen, but the owners wanted to screen the windows to give privacy after dark, and to prevent uncomfortable heat build-up on sunny days. Unusually though, they did not want the blinds to reach right up into the apex of the gable - preferring to be able to see the sky at all times. In response to the brief, Grand Design Blinds designed, made and installed Duette pleated blinds in a soft white colourway. These pull from the bottom of the windows upwards, so that no top rail interrupts the view. Manually operated, the blinds run smoothly on tensioned wires which are almost invisibly set against the window frames. Each blind is individual and can be set at any height, allowing maximum flexibility of screening across the height and width of the gable end.

## Fixing problems

Grand Designs have a reputation as problem solvers and regularly find themselves brought onto projects where other companies have failed to come up with workable proposals. Often, as these next two case histories show, screening unusually shaped glazing requires a combination of the appropriate product, real technical expertise and close attention to the smallest details to come up with the best looking and most practical solution.

These tricky curved windows needed minimalist-looking blinds which would reduce glare and give privacy. Grand Design Blinds presented several options which would follow the curve of the window, and the client chose their simplest solution, which was to span the glass in several flat facets. This allows flexible light control and shading, making the room comfortable to use throughout the day, no matter the time of year.

## Blackout solution

A refurbished London rooftop apartment needed a blackout solution for new windows in the master bedroom. But the feature glazing posed a series of challenges including a glass-to-glass corner and a casement window, meaning that the blind had to be fully retractable. Here, Grand Design Blinds engineered a series of solutions including reverse-rolling the blinds so that the fabric comes off the front of the tube rather than the back - allowing the two



blinds to meet neatly in the corner. The right-hand blind is cut to the shape of the window for a fully tailored shape and slim aluminium pelmets hide the roller tubes, preventing light gaps above them

A remarkable new eco-house in Oxfordshire by Ashbrook Homes, sits above, and flows into, a multi-level garden with decking and lush plantings. Extensive areas of glass give views from every angle. This makes screening a necessity for climate control on sunny days and privacy, especially in the bedrooms. Grand Design Blinds designed and installed bespoke electric blinds throughout. These were planned into the design of the house right from the beginning, so that all the large windows and sliding doors along

the front of the building, together with the skylights in the bedrooms, were built with special recesses, completely hiding the blinds when not in use.

In the project shown here, Interior Designer Niki Schäfer commissioned Grand Design Blinds to screen windows in several different planes in this new oak-framed building. The design included a large gable window and two roof lanterns. Niki selected traditional Pinoleum fabric, with a solar reflective coating, to be installed as remote-control blinds for both the gable and one roof lantern. Automated screen roller blinds in a white fabric were specified for the side windows to reduce glare for watching television.