

## What's behind a rooflight?

### **Paul Trace, Managing Director of Tuscan Foundry Products sheds light on the rooflight market.**

Without the ingenious concept of a rooflight the vision of transforming unconventional space into a well lit property would be a daunting task, and in some cases an impossible option. For that reason, the sky light could be considered a highly influential building feature which has given the construction industry a solution to introducing natural light into a property.

As a result of their popularity, there are lots of traditional roof windows on the market which can make choosing a roof light confusing unless one can identify what the differentiations are. An effective way to make this distinction is to reveal the attributes of one of the UK's top rooflights.

The Lumen Conservation Roof Light can only be described as a prestigious piece of engineering in the same way that a Rolls Royce is considered king of the cars. Focusing on each element of this quality rooflight will highlight its attention to detail and provide a realistic yardstick to measure the performance of a rooflight.

In this country weather is always an issue with high winds and flash flooding testing building foundations to the max. The roof is undoubtedly a prime target for weather damage as it's the largest surface area exposed to the elements. Consequently, a sky light has to be able to withstand adverse weather patterns.

To underpin this guarantee The Lumen Conservation Rooflight complies with the weather performance test BS6375: Part1:2004 for air permeability, watertightness and wind resistance. To achieve this status the rooflight has to prove it can withstand extreme conditions such as water application at the rate of 6 litres per minute, in pressures up to 70mph, and air pressures in excess of 200 mph. The results of these rigorous tests showed that The Lumen steel roof window remained virtually unaffected. No damage or functional defects were recorded, in fact during the watertightness test the rooflight remained watertight for 50 minutes longer than the required time.

Being able to withstand extreme weather conditions is also an indication of the rooflight's energy efficiency and quality of glazing. The Lumen uses the highest specification of glazing, Pilkington Activ™ environmentally friendly self-cleaning glass. The double glazed units

offer the benefits of toughened outer and inner glass 4mm thick and a 16mm argon gas filled cavity. Unlike other traditional rooflights that require a reapplication of their self-clean coating every two years, Pilkington Activ™ will last for the life of the glazing. In addition, the Lumen Victorian style roof light uses polyester powder coating that guarantees at least fifteen years of service.

With the Government pursuing a carbon neutral environment it's imperative that every action is taken to reduce energy consumption. Rooflights are naturally energy efficient as they let in vast amounts of light but The Lumen Rooflight has taken this concept a stage further. The Lumen 'Extra Light' system is an interlocking design to reduce the amount of visible steel to satisfy the architectural and aesthetic needs of the building and multiplies the amount of light feasible through an opening in the roof.

Making sure a skylight is in keeping with the existing building and surrounding areas is essential for heritage properties. This is where there is a clear distinction between a modern day rooflight and a traditional conservation rooflight. The Lumen range of steel and cast rooflights are conservation style rooflights as it been specially designed to sit flush with a low profile to remain unobtrusive. Its unique appearance replicates a Victorian design which satisfies heritage requirements but its fine lines of steel coupled with its choice of bespoke mechanisms offer the customer complete design flexibility.

The Lumen Rooflight is almost overcautious in its engineering but the forward-thinking approach adopted by its manufacturers is sustainable. From its robust Zintec steel frames right down to its optional solid brass winding mechanism, The Lumen Rooflight is designed to last.

Outlining the benefits and capabilities of the Lumen Rooflight, manifests what is achievable with the design of a rooflight. Its excellence in energy efficiency is further enhanced by its British manufacture to reduce its carbon footprint, which gives the Lumen Rooflight a competitive edge. The Lumen Rooflight is a valuable measure of quality and craftsmanship.

Thanks to its design and manufacture in Britain, The Lumen Rooflight can boast a next day delivery service. Delivery for bespoke sizes to suit individual project requirements can be achieved within a month.

For more information, visit [www.lumenrooflight.co.uk](http://www.lumenrooflight.co.uk) or telephone 01403 860040 or email [info@lumenrooflight.co.uk](mailto:info@lumenrooflight.co.uk) for a brochure.