



The Building Envelope Authority

DO ROOFLIGHTS PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN THE MODERN BUILDING?



The simple answer is yes! Rooflights do play a vital role in the modern building, however far too often they are overlooked or used as an afterthought. Rooflights are the common link to many aspects of building design and can help the designer, the building owner and the occupier to achieve a truly sustainable, energy efficient and enjoyable place to work and live in.

Correct rooflight design at the outset of the building concept can have dramatic, positive effects on all aspects of the building from the owner's potential asset value to the wellbeing and productivity of the final occupants.

Rooflights are generally regarded as the simplest and cost-effective means of introducing natural daylighting into the building envelope. Positioned within the roofscape, they are orientated upwards to conduct the maximum amount of light into the interior and can provide up to three times as much light as conventional windows located in walls, helping the building to more readily comply with the Building Regulations and improving the internal environment for the occupants.

Rooflights also deliver a more even and useable distribution of natural light into a building, particularly in large structures where light is required deep into the building or in enclosed areas that cannot be lit through an external wall. The light that enters a building can be direct light such as that which passes through clear or transparent materials, or diffused light that is created by surface textures designed to create diffusion by surface refraction, or by materials that are translucent and naturally diffusing.

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01633 895633 info@mcrma.co.uk www.mcrma.co.uk