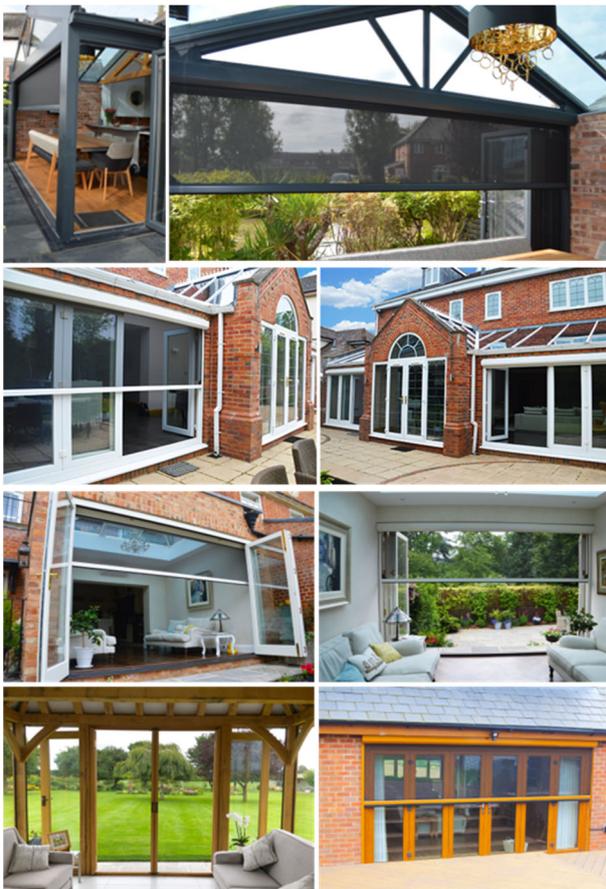


# PHANTOM SCREENS™

March 2017

## Why Screens?

### A Change of Scene for Bifolds and Sliding Doors



#### The current picture

In recent years, the UK has seen a significant increase in the adoption of glass in architectural design – predominantly for large sliding and bifold doors. Homeowners are creating stunning living spaces full of light, enhancing the connections between their homes and outdoor spaces. But how about the day-to-day living experience?

More glass of course means more light, and more light means more exposure to the sun and a greater need for solar control. Natural light is a popular design element, but unmanaged, can create an uncomfortable living environment. This is especially true during hot summer months when stunning glass living spaces become greenhouses and in low winter sunlight when eye-level glare becomes an issue.

## The problem of privacy

With large doors and windows, more of our daily routines are on show than ever before, so it's important to find the right solution to the problem of increased visibility. Net curtains are dated and Venetian blinds have their own shortcomings – not to mention the fact that they're rarely available in the widths require to screen a large opening.



## Uncertain about curtains

Clean architectural lines can be compromised by curtain fabric 'bunching' across the track and to the sides when open. Extra wide curtains can require significant space to sit when open, reducing available light. Curtains offer an on/off solution to heat, glare and privacy, but are limited in their flexibility beyond that. Sunlight can also 'bleach' or mark the lining fabric creating an uneven look from the outside.

Curtains for wide windows create a lot of folds, each of which provides an attractive hiding place for insects. Unlike Phantom Screens, they offer no protection from bugs entering the home during hotter months when it's important to keep doors and windows open to provide adequate ventilation.

## Smart glass but no air

Thermochromic or smart glass responds automatically to sunlight but cannot be controlled by the homeowner. It provides solar management when doors and windows are closed, which results in zero ventilation. Allowing fresh air to circulate is not only better for health but helps maintain connections with the exterior landscape. Additionally, in strong sunlight, thermochromic glass loses its transparency, which can potentially obliterate exterior views.



## The solution

Screens are growing in popularity for their performance flexibility and for their minimalist design. Retractable, recessed screens don't impact on architectural design - they simply disappear from view when not in use.

## Maintain clean design lines

This means homeowners can maximise every inch of available light with no distraction from clean architectural lines. Further subtlety is created by frames that match any RAL colour to blend seamlessly with existing door colour palettes.

## Performance flexibility

Phantom Screens offers high-tech mesh fabrics that provide a variety of solutions depending on your needs. These include insect control meshes at around 50% openness, to privacy control meshes at around 5% open. Unlike smart glass, Phantom Screens meshes provide ventilation which helps you to manage heat build-up during summer months.

|                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |
| <b>Insect</b>                                                                     | <b>Solar</b>                                                                      | <b>Premium Solar</b>                                                               | <b>Privacy</b>                                                                      |
| Blocks up to 55% UV rays                                                          | Blocks up to 75% UV rays                                                          | Blocks up to 80% UV rays                                                           | Blocks up to 95% UV rays                                                            |
| Available in charcoal or silver grey                                              | Available in charcoal or silver grey                                              | Available in multiple colours                                                      | Available in multiple colours                                                       |

## Retain views

Screen fabrics reduce glare and solar gain but retain your views, so you keep the feeling of openness and the connections with the outside. Our solar screens block up to 97% of harmful UV rays, so they not only protect your skin, but your furniture, rugs, and other furnishings too.

## Save energy

The solar management feature of performance mesh contributes to energy saving by reducing the requirement for HVAC cooling systems in the summer. Building standards dictate that architects and engineers calculate the heating, cooling, and lighting performance of a building during the design phase. When included in these calculations, screen fabric can contribute significantly to the building's overall performance rating.



## Colour difference

Different colours achieve different effects too. Dark mesh allows you to see through and focus on the landscape beyond; this is because dark mesh reflects less light and glare. Light colour mesh reflects light back towards you making it harder to see what's on the other side of the screen; consequently, light mesh is a great outside-in privacy solution.

See the Phantom Screens website for more information on mesh colour and performance or get in touch to find out more.

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