

Site Visit.

What is the current glazing?

- What is it's thickness?
- What purpose is it currently serving? (Obscuring? Diffusing?)

What building regulations might you have to consider?

- Is it currently safety glass?
- Should it be?

What is the glass fitted into?

- What is the frame material?
- How is it glazed?

What direction is the window facing?

What quality does the light have?

- Is it direct?
- Is it restricted by external elements?
- Is it strong/weak?
- How will it change throughout the day?

Are there any additional light sources in the space?

- How might they impact your windows?

What is outside the windows?

- How might that affect the way a design is read?
- What affect does that have on the way the light enters the building?

What is inside the space?

- Does the interior design need to be considered in relation to your windows?
- How will any cast light interact with this?
- How might that affect your design?

What is the architectural style?

- In what ways does this impact on the type of window you design?

What elements are there within the space and surrounding area that you might draw on in your design?

- Read the space, your design should engage with and enhance the architecture of the space in which it is placed.
- You should aim to design a window that only truly functions within the location that it is designed for.

Measuring up.

When carrying out a survey for a window there are three separate measurements to note down.

Visible size. (V/S)

This is the area of the window that is visible within the frame of the window. In effect, you are measuring the glass that you can see.

Tight size. (T/S)

This is the size of the frame that the glass is going to fit into.

Glass size. (G/S)

This is the size of the glass itself. It won't be possible to take this measurement when the glass is still glazed. However, it will obviously be somewhere between the sight size and the tight size. As a rule, we take off 4mm from the tight size, allowing a tolerance of 2mm all the way round the glass.

In addition to this you should note down which side of the window your measurements are taken from.

You should find a system for measuring up that works for you.

You might choose to use a diagram of the window, onto which you note down the measurements. This can become quite crowded when noting down the three different sizes for each dimension.

Therefore, you might choose to list the measurements in an organised coherent way. For example, working from top to bottom, and left to right.

The important thing is that you are consistent in your method. That way, whenever you refer to your measurements they are easy to read and translate into your drawing.

