



HEAD

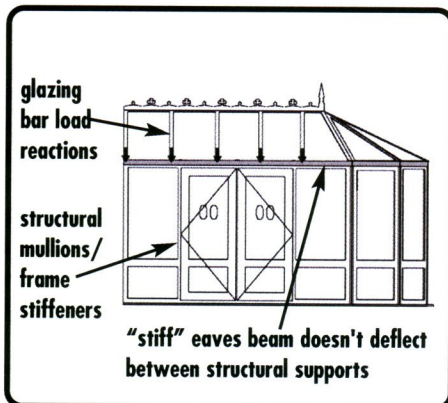
Most people would accept that in an ideal world, glazing bars should align with the frames beneath, giving an integrated design that is easy on the eye. However, it is not a sin to design a conservatory where they don't line up, and in fact, many factors will contrive to work against this ideal. Lets check out the factors that may make bar / frame alignment impractical.

SITE CONDITIONS

They will invariably dictate the design of the conservatory and therefore the glazing bar set outs. These would include chimney breasts, soil vent stacks, the inclusion of raised or elevated boxgutters, height restrictions, boundary walls - even worse, the base could already be built, leaving you to "fudge it".

LAYOUT

Combinations of widths / pitches / projections that interact with the style of conservatory selected by the homeowner will restrict to a lesser or greater degree the permitted glazing bar centres. Take as an example a conservatory where extra wide french doors are required. Ultraframe's eaves beam, in this situation, plays a vital role as it allows even distribution of the load's reactions from glazing bars by spanning between structural supports within the side frames and walls.



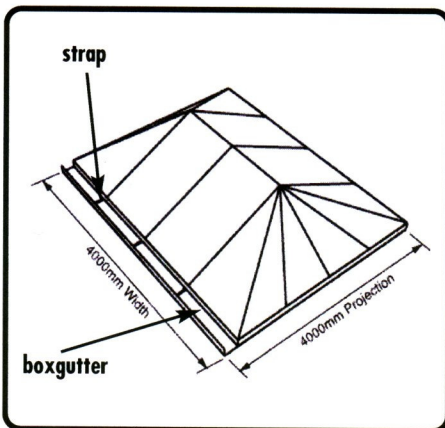
Ultraframe's UK Structural Design Guide gives full details on the performance of individual roofing components in different regions with different glazing materials, and takes into

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For this Head2Head, Ultraframe technical support engineers Bill Kenyon and Mick Rowley discuss the various factors which can affect the planned alignment of roof glazing bars with their supporting vertical side frames

account factors such as exposure categories. If the style and size of conservatory dictates wide glazing bar spacings, the addition of extra ones purely for aesthetic purposes will add cost to the overall roof structure. Whether this is an unnecessary cost is a matter of individual judgement.

STRUCTURAL SUPPORTS



The inclusion of wind posts, brick piers, structural gallows brackets supporting strapped boxgutters, corner posts and frame stiffeners will all have a direct effect on the spacing, frequency and location of glazing bars. Any one of these or occasionally combinations of them are required to support particularly large conservatories or those that are built in exposed locations. When specified, tie bars must be fitted to ensure loads are adequately and evenly transmitted to the eaves beam. For those ordering a prefabricated roof from Ultraframe or one of it's 29 BBA Registered Fabricators, a roof confirmation is always faxed to the installer. This confirms the tie bar and glazing bar positions, as a tie bar must always be located in-line with and directly under glazing bars (to form a vertical triangle) and support the ridge.

HEAD



INTERNAL ANCILLARIES

With regards to ancillary products, accommodating a reasonable size and number of roof vents, Ridgeflows and the omnipresent fan, can necessitate that the ridge is made longer. This increases the pitch between the sides and the front, resulting in hips which do not then come off at 45°, and as a consequence, jack rafter bars will have to be staggered.

Whilst it may be idyllic to align glazing bars and frames, it is clear that it is not essential to do this and quite often there are compelling reasons why this can't be achieved. Whatever glazing bar centres are finally decided upon, it is better if the homeowner is aware of their final position, thereby avoiding any potential conflict and possibilities of cash retention.

