



Re: Personal Note. OT.

air-conditioned  
house. Offices and other  
commercial premises yes,  
but never a house.

Ditto (in the UK). And as far as I know I've  
ever only been in one house  
with warm-air heating, which was regarded  
by the owners as very poor.  
Generally speaking British houses are well  
heated and appallingly  
insulated.

My (UK) bungalow is of Swedish wood-frame construction,  
almost stifflingly  
well insulated (triple glazing etc), and when the plans were  
being discussed  
I was offered air-conditioning as an option. I turned it down  
partly because  
of expense but also because I like open windows and doors  
in summer, which  
is just when the air-conditioning would be most effectively  
used. There is a  
ceiling extraction system fitted to some areas, to remove  
smells and steam.

Bugs have not been discussed in this thread, and they deserve mention.  
There are certain times of the year when we, too, open the windows  
instead of turning on the AC. Not without screens, though. Screens  
are vital to Florida living.

I seem to remember, when being in the UK, that not only were the  
windows open, but there were no screens on the windows. Perhaps I  
just didn't pay attention, though.

I've never seen screens on a UK house window or door. One of those  
confusing US lyrics only made sense to me when I first visited: "Late  
last night I heard the screen door slam". We did, however, have them on  
our caravan, which was designed for being dragged to southern Europe in  
August where they were invaluable, as it was essential to keep the  
windows open overnight.

When we moved to our (then) new house located halfway up the side of a  
valley with the river Seine at the bottom, I found myself extremely  
allergic (cross thread alert) to whatever type of mosquito they had  
locally. The reaction was violent: my hands used to swell up so much  
that I could barely drive, but we couldn't keep the windows shut in  
the summer, and in any case mosquitos would get in somehow. (This

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was, cross-fingers, the only time I've ever had a serious allergic reaction to anything.) I fixed a two-metre vertical post to each corner of the bed and spread a very large mosquito net over the whole thing. Visitors probably thought I was a bit weird.

—

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