CLAIMS

1. A rotatable sliding window including a window frame adapted to be fixed within an opening in a structure, having one or more window panels supported within the frame between opposed moveable supports fitted to guide members in the frame, the or each window panel being adapted for slidable movement to allow the window to be opened and closed, wherein the opposed moveable supports are linked to the or each window panel via pivot pins such that:

    a) the opposed moveable supports are able to slide with the or each window panel; and
    b) the or each window panel is able to move relative to the opposed moveable supports and rotate about the axis of the pivot pins to move out of the sliding plane to allow access to both sides of the or each window panel;

    wherein one of the opposed moveable supports associated with a window panel and the window panel associated with the aforementioned opposed moveable support are moveable along the axis of the pivot pins.

2. A window as claimed in claim 1, wherein biasing means are provided to bias the opposed moveable support moveable along the axis of the pivot pins against the window panel and means are also provided which are adapted to move the window panel against the bias of the biasing means.

3. A window as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the displacement of the or each window panel during movement along the axis of the pivot pins is limited by a stop member which engages the frame.

4. A window as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein one or both opposed moveable supports and its associated window panel are provided with complementary engaging members.

5. A window as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the means adapted to move the window panel against the bias of the biasing means include a pair of cooperating members, their arrangement being such that rotational movement of one of the cooperating members causes translational movement of the other to move the window panel against the bias of the biasing means.

6. A window as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the biasing means is fitted to the frame and includes a mechanism of cooperating members, comprising a pivoting member operatively linked to a pair of translational members, their arrangement being such that movement of one translational member will cause the other translational member to move about the pivoting member to reduce the degree of bias experienced on the opposed moveable support by the bias of the biasing means.

7. A window as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 7, wherein the means adapted to move the window panel against the bias of the biasing means include a pair of cooperating members, their arrangement being such that rotational movement of one of the cooperating members causes translational movement of the other to move the window panel.

8. A window as claimed in claim 7 wherein the pair of cooperating members include a rack and pinion.

9. A window as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the or each window panel is able to rotate through 360 degrees.

10. A window as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 9, wherein the complementary engaging members are curved.

11. A window as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 9, wherein the complementary engaging members are flat.

12. A dwelling or structure incorporating a rotatable sliding window as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.

Claims

1. A rotatable sliding window including a window frame adapted to be fixed within an opening in a building, having one or more window panels supported within the frame between opposed moveable supports fitted to guide members in the frame, the or each window panel being adapted for slidable movement relative to the window frame to allow the window to be opened and closed, wherein the opposed moveable supports are linked to the or each window panel via pivot pins such that:

a) the opposed moveable supports are able to slide with the or each window panel; and

b) the or each window panel is able to move relative to the opposed moveable supports and rotate about the axis of the pivot pins to move out of the sliding plane to allow access to both sides of the or each window panel;

wherein one of the opposed moveable supports associated with a window panel and the window panel associated with the aforementioned opposed moveable support are moveable along the axis of the pivot pins.

2. A window as claimed in claim 1, wherein biasing means (20) are provided at one of the opposed moveable supports to bias this opposed moveable support moveable along the axis of the pivot pins, against the window panel and means (18,19) are also provided which are adapted to move the window panel against the bias of the biasing means.

3. A window as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the displacement of the or each window panel during movement along the axis of the pivot pins is limited by a lift limiting device which engages the frame.

4. A window as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein one or both opposed moveable supports and its associated window panel are provided with complementary engaging members.

5. A window as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the means adapted to move the window panel against the bias of the biasing means includes a lifting mechanism in the form of a pair of cooperating members, their arrangement being such that rotational

movement of one of the cooperating members causes translational movement of the other to move the window panel against the bias of the biasing means.

6. A window as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the biasing means is fitted to the frame and includes a mechanism of cooperating members, comprising a pivoting member operatively linked to a pair of translational members, their arrangement being such that movement of one translational member will cause the other translational member to move about the pivoting member to reduce the degree of bias experienced on the opposed moveable support by the bias of the biasing means.

7. A window as claimed in claim 5, wherein the pair of cooperating members include a rack and pinion.

8. A window as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the or each window panel is able to rotate through 360 degrees.

9. A window as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 8, wherein the complementary engaging members are curved.

10. A window as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 8, wherein the complementary engaging members are flat.

11. A building or dwelling incorporating a rotatable sliding window as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.