The daylight penetration from rooflights can vary widely depending on the design of the rooflight and the presence of internal devices to limit sun penetration. Rooflights are a very effective way to provide daylight over a large area, single story building.

Figure 7.9
Sloping roof lights providing daylight in a factory

Guidance on the design of rooflights is given in the SLL Lighting Guide 10: *Daylighting and window design*.

7.5.4 Atria

Atria have become an increasingly popular feature of buildings. Atria are often used to light a central circulation or social area by daylight admitted through a glass roof or wall (Figure 7.10). Atria will provide some daylight to adjacent working areas, but the amount is often small and does not penetrate very far. The main function of an atrium is to provide a pleasing visual experience and a degree of contact with the outside for people in the working areas.

Figure 7.10
An atrium providing plentiful daylight into a circulation/relaxation area of an office but limited daylight into the working areas

7.5.5 Remote distribution

It is possible to provide some daylight into spaces that have no possibility of windows or rooflights through remote distribution devices such as light pipes. Such systems take various forms but all collect daylight and sunlight in some way and transmit in through a shaft or pipe by reflection to a distribution point in the space (Figure 7.11).