

MODERN LIVING: open space

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As the population increases, space and time are becoming rare and precious. Our home has to offer what is lacking more and more in our busy and crowded lives; open plan living can help achieve this.

In our hectic modern society, spending time with loved ones can become a rarity. An open-plan kitchen could be one way in which this precious time can be increased. Knock down some walls and transform what were two or three smaller kitchen, dining and living rooms into one larger room with three well defined areas: the cooking area, the eating area and the sitting area. The new space created provides an opportunity to cook, entertain and be with your friends and family all at the same time.

The kitchen is the centre of the home and so it needs to be inviting, comfortable and practical. In modern kitchens, clever storage solutions can maximise the potential of the space and eliminate clutter, enhancing the style and look you have chosen.

Spending more time with ourselves can also be something which is lacking in our increasingly populated society. Streets, shops, restaurants and roads are becoming more crowded and sometimes we need a space in which to relax away from people and noise. Creating an open-plan bedroom and bathroom can transform your space into the sanctuary of peace and tranquillity that you need. There are many ways to define and separate the bathroom area from the bedroom without breaking the flow and feel of the open-plan space; free-standing screens, light curtains, rows of plants, or small partition walls with built-in secret storage, flat doors and touch catches will subtly hide the relevant area.

It can often feel as though the space in which we have to live and work is constantly being reduced. When it is not possible to physically extend your property or indeed, to move to a larger house, space constraints can start to feel claustrophobic. One simple way in which space can be created is to utilise your loft by transforming it into an open-plan living

area. The difficulty with an open-plan loft is defining its boundaries without obstructing the flow of movement. If you choose to create an open-plan bedroom-lounge, I would recommend that you plan the space so that the bedroom area is separated by structural corners, or situated on mezzanines; out of sight but not behind closed doors. If this is not possible, then sliding or folding screens or thick curtains are also an option. There is also a tremendous choice of space saving solutions available which can maximise the area in which you have to live.

Old and new styles can also work well together and open-plan living is well suited for modern and period properties. Pale neutral floors and walls combined with darker but colourful modern furniture and accessories will complement Victorian properties; modern furniture with bold lines and styles will look striking when added to rooms with period features.

“An open-plan room can transform your space into the sanctuary of tranquillity that you need”

The key to successful open-plan living is to keep the rooms uncluttered, with clean lines,

some sophisticated and stylish free-standing furniture and cleverly designed built-in storage areas. Open-plan living brings a new, more spacious dimension to your home and you can add sensory pleasures with a mixture of textures and colours.

The possibilities for open-plan living are immense and the end result has to fit your lifestyle and reflect your personality. A well designed open-plan space can add significant character and value to your property as well as creating a more enjoyable, spacious and relaxing atmosphere in which to live.

