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10 amazing houses inside

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Latest trends for open-plan living



A different level

Architect Anthony Hudson (01603 766 220; hudsonarchitects.co.uk) nails the concept of broken plan in this home on the Jersey coastline, where a sequence of different levels and sizes of space make for a lively layout that leads the eye up and around. The double-height kitchen offers playful glimpses, rather than open views, of the living area on a mezzanine level above it.



New designs for *contemporary living*

An open-plan arrangement can be light, airy and sociable – but we still crave cosier, private space. Could broken plan be the answer? **Words Emily Brooks**

Open-plan living can be great: spacious, sociable and full of daylight, and no walls to get in the way. But what about the noise from the family rabble, the pressure to keep everything pristine rather than shutting the door on the mess, and the need to curl up in a cosy space sometimes? Just because you can go open plan, it doesn't always mean that it's the best option, and homeowners increasingly seem to be seeking a middle ground that provides both privacy and connectivity. Could broken plan really be about to eclipse our love of wide, open spaces?

A recent poll by online homes website Houzz saw open plan beat closed plan by two to one, so for many, opening up space is still a priority. 'Open plan is now a core part of most briefs and is often the main reason clients want an extension to their home,' says Melanie Clear of Essex-based Clear Architects. 'Life is now much less formal. Families choose to live and move around →

Secluded study

If you work from home, why not choose a prime spot for your office? In this London property, rather than building an extension with the kitchen-diner along the back of the house, Fraher Architects (020 8291 6947; fraher.co) split the space, with a snug/study rising a few steps above the adjacent dining area. Its elevated position provides a lovely view of the garden.

