



**GLAZED ZONES**  
Internal glazing keeps an open-plan space visually joined while providing a barrier to noise and cooking smells. Automated, frameless internal triple-glazed sliding glass doors cost from £1,250 per m<sup>2</sup>, IQ Glass

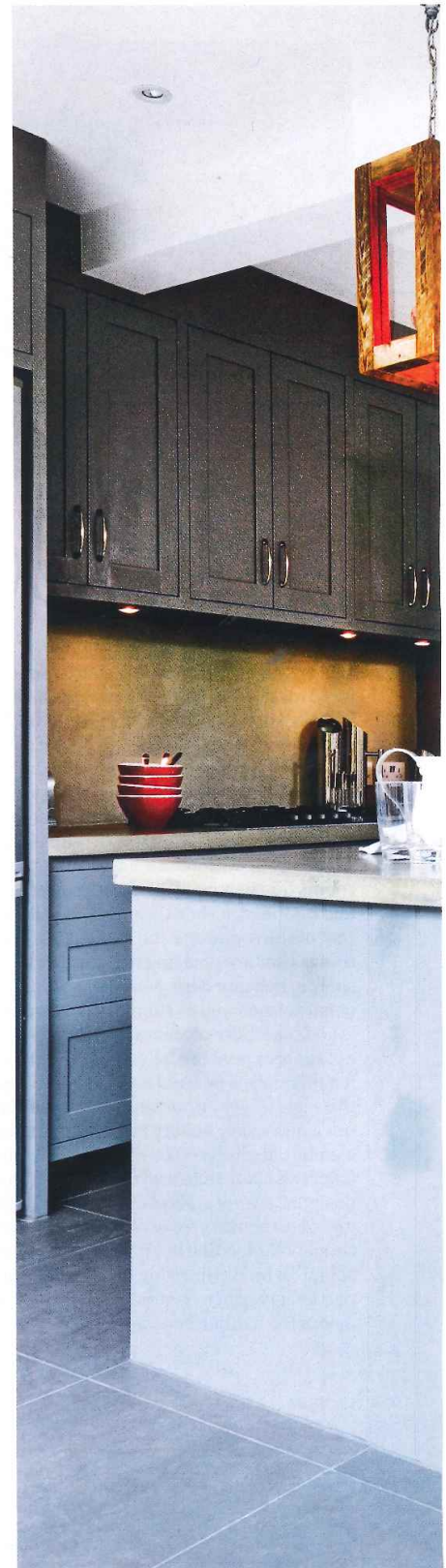
*Real Homes*  
**IDEAS**

For tips on interior design for open-plan spaces, visit [realhomes.co.uk/open-plan](http://realhomes.co.uk/open-plan)

# How to **REDESIGN** your kitchen

Whether you'd like an open-plan cooking/dining/living area or a utility room, find out how to transform your interior without extending by using every space to full advantage

FEATURE LUCY SEARLE ►





**STREAMLINED DESIGN**

Running cabinetry down one wall creates a cooking zone, separated from the dining area by an island and the living space by a change of level. Bovingdon Kitchen in solid oak, oak veneer and tulipwood, hand-painted in Dark Lead by Little Greene, from £35,000 at Cue & Co

# CREATE AN OPEN-PLAN KITCHEN-DINER

If you want a room for cooking, dining and living, it's time to open up your space

## WILL IT SUIT MY HOME?

A well-designed open-plan space will work in any property; however, it's worth bearing in mind your home's architectural lines before you knock down any walls. Taking out walls to ceiling level might suit modern homes, but in period properties it's better to retain cornicing and picture rails.

### ■ PLAN THE BEST LAYOUT

Before you design the interior layout, consider how your new room relates to the exterior. Ideally, an open-plan room will be at the back of the house, overlooking the garden, with large doors to maximise views. The position of the doors will influence what can go where inside, with the kitchen usually to one side or at the back of the room, and the living and dining spaces nearest the garden.

Next, consider the flow between the kitchen, dining and living zones. For example, the kitchen and dining spaces should be adjacent, so that you don't have to cross the living area with food or dirty crockery.

It's also important to define the different zones in the room. You can use an island or breakfast bar – or even a part wall – to separate the cooking zone from living and dining spaces. Varying ceiling and floor heights is another way to do this.



### WELL-LIT LAYOUT

The best way to lay out an open-plan space is to put the kitchen in the darkest part of the room and nearest the dining area, with the living space adjacent to the garden. The Ladbroke kitchen is painted in Cornforth White by Farrow & Ball, from £35,000. Cue & Co

Consider at planning stage whether you could fit a pantry or utility room into the new layout. 'Create enough storage to hide any kitchen clutter that you won't want to see from your living area,' says Magnus Nilsson, designer for Roundhouse.

Finally, will there be enough room for everything you want to fit in? 'The key is to think carefully about how you want the space to work, and don't try to cram in too much,' says architect Ben Parsons. 'If there is enough room for a dining table, then great, but if not, bench seating on the kitchen island can also work.'

## DESIGN DETAILS

### ■ FIXTURES AND FITTINGS

The finished look of the room will be largely dictated by the kitchen cabinetry. Start by deciding on the room's style: is it modern or traditional, vintage or industrial? Consider how this will suit both the architecture of the room, and the style of the rest of the house.

In an open-plan space, neutral fittings that are easy to redecorate around, plus continuity of design, will ►