



“In a recent project in St John’s Wood [shown above], I created a broken-plan scheme featuring a darker, more dramatic living space to contrast with a light and bright kitchen and dining area, awash with natural light. This breaks the room up, giving me the chance to experiment with different design styles in different sections of the home.” **Brian Woulfe, founder and managing director of Designed by Woulfe**

An open-plan design has long been a popular format for the heart of the home, but it’s not without its drawbacks.

Take kitchen noise issues and unsightly dishes, for instance; not ideal when you just want to relax. Hence, the rising popularity of broken-plan living, which is fast becoming the layout of choice.

Keith Atkins, director of design for DesignSpace London, explains, “There are so many different ways to achieve broken-plan, ranging from creating physically raised or sunken areas to defining dedicated zones by using

furniture as space dividers; from a kitchen island or peninsular to freestanding shelves or cabinets – sometimes even on wheels to retain maximum flexibility for the overall space.”

The result is an airy, flowing and spacious feel, while fulfilling the separate functional, social and relaxation requirements of informal, modern-day living; with this alternative, you get connectivity and privacy at the same time.

“An open-plan kitchen is the heart of the home,” comments Tom Howley, creative design director of Tom Howley Kitchens, observing the evolving trend.



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Above: Utilising split levels is a great way to create a broken-plan living space, as shown here, with Modulnova's Fly kitchen collection snugly incorporated on the lower level while the dining area is zoned in the upper area. The kitchen lower fronts are in a white satin lacquer and upper fronts and worktops in Grigio Cemento. The splashback is in black lacquered steel. Kitchens from £25,000. designspacelondon.com **Below:** With no straight walls, either internally or externally, this eco passive new-build in The Chilterns required a kitchen and living area that worked with its curves to provide an open but broken space. The contemporary Chiselwood kitchen features an island that mirrors the shape of the walls with worktops in a Pegasus leather finish and Silestone Blanco Capri to give a clean contrast. The dining and relaxation zones are subtly separated by a curved column. Kitchens from £35,000 chiselwood.co.uk