

THE CONNECTICUT DESIGN GUIDE

2022

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FROM THE EDITORS OF
CTC&G

DESIGNING YOUR DREAM HOUSE | EMBRACING THE OUTDOORS | YOUR SMART HOME
DREAMING OF KITCHENS AND BATHS | READY, SET, DECORATE! | SHOPPING IN STYLE

OPEN PLAN

HERE TO STAY OR GONE WITH NEW WFH REQUIREMENTS?

"Space is no longer being defined by how it photographs but by the experience it gives us. Clients with existing open-concept floor plans have sought us out to create privacy when desired, yet connection for coming together. Allowing for comfort in spaces to nurture us and control noise are important elements." —Nancy A. Lovas

"I HAVE FOUND THAT THE TREND IS MOVING BACK TOWARD HAVING PRIVATE SPACES IN A HOUSE. WATERFRONT IS STILL FOCUSED ON THE OPEN PLAN, BUT EVEN THOSE WILL HAVE A SMALL DEN OR COZY ROOM TO RETREAT TO." —Robert A. Cardello



WE ASK THE EXPERTS

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"A second home office is now a standard request; however, the most interesting phenomenon we have observed is that playrooms are no longer just for children. We often incorporate a space for Ping-Pong, pool, shuffleboard and cards into our home designs. These play areas are often combined with wet bars and TV-watching areas to make spaces for everyone to relax and decompress." —Susan Alaberg

"Rather than having completely open interiors, we find it makes sense to create a series of interconnected rooms with oversized doorways. For a recent rustic country home, the kitchen was located centrally with large sliding barn doors to the adjacent family room and living room, allowing those rooms to be used for study or work when needed." —Charles Haver and Stewart Skolnick

"We see an increased focus on separate home office and gym spaces. In one recent gut renovation, we were asked to create a home office that has a small separate area for a home gym, and this space can additionally be used as a guest suite as it has an en-suite bathroom. This multipurpose space is quite remote from the open living/dining/kitchen area—as well as the primary bedroom suite—so there is a natural separation between work-life and home-life functions." —Scott Springer

"FOR REASONS OF SPACE AND LIGHT, THE OPEN PLAN IS HERE TO STAY, BUT HOMEOWNERS ARE PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO ATTENDANT SPACES—AND ALSO PIECES OF SPACE WITHIN THE OPEN PLAN—IN ORDER TO MAKE THINGS REALLY DO THE HEAVY LIFTING OF A FULL-TIME LIVE/WORK ENVIRONMENT. HOWEVER, ARCHITECTURE DOESN'T HAVE TO SOLVE EVERYTHING; TECHNOLOGY (E.G. EARBUDS) CAN STEP IN TOO."

—Christopher Arelt

"While the open concept is still present in the kitchen/family room areas, I've seen a large demand in the last year for a separate den or adult lounge that is on the opposite side of the house. Parents want a quiet, intimate space to get away while the kids are in the family room watching TV or hanging out." — Tanner White

"ASPECTS OF THE 'OPEN FLOOR-PLAN CONCEPT' WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US. KITCHENS THAT OPEN TO BOTH BREAKFAST AND FAMILY ROOM AREAS ARE HERE TO STAY. THE PANDEMIC FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGED HOW AND WHERE WE WORK, AS WELL AS OUR FAMILY STRUCTURE. THE COMPLETELY OPEN PLAN LOOKS BEAUTIFUL, BUT OFTEN DOES NOT REFLECT THE WAY FAMILIES LIVE, WORK AND PLAY WITHIN A HOME. THE NEED FOR ACOUSTIC AND VISUAL SEPARATION IN OUR HOMES HAS GONE UP DRAMATICALLY. CELLULAR SPACES DEVOTED TO WORK, STUDY, QUIET OR PEACE ARE NOW REGULAR STAPLES OF HOME DESIGN, AND POCKET DOORS ARE BACK IN FASHION!" — Arthur C. Hanlon

"TODAY'S PLANS ARE GENERALLY MORE OPEN THAN TRADITIONAL HOUSES OF A GENERATION OR TWO AGO, BUT WITH MANY ROOMS THAT CAN BE CLOSED OFF WHEN MORE PRIVACY IS DESIRED." — Charles Hilton



"The one programmatic change in second homes is the desire to have working office space. Whereas most people do not believe that remote working is a sustainable model (people need to be mentored and need to have conversations with coworkers that simply don't happen on a Zoom), the experiences over the past year have proven that someone may take two weeks off — one shutting down from the office, but the other spending the week remotely and still being productive. Clients are looking to set their vacation homes up with the ability to extend their time away from the office. Better to work on the Vineyard than midtown Manhattan!"

—Christopher Pagliaro



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Over the past 18 years, CTC&G has been the go-to source for design inspiration for homeowners and designers alike. In each issue, we present the work of talented practitioners in the fields of design, architecture, building and landscape. Here is a list of the distinguished professionals whose exemplary work has graced the pages of the magazine this year, plus the 2021 Innovation in Design Award winners and finalists, and all of the recipients of our prestigious Innovator Award. For the complete list, go to cottagesgardens.com/the1st.



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