

Real

More Space. More Light. More Wow!

HOMES

AMAZING

BEFORE +AFTERS

54

PAGES OF
INSPIRING HOMES
AND GARDENS

EXTEND YOUR HOME

Create a space
for cooking,
entertaining
and family life

CELEBRATE SUMMER!

GLOBAL GLAMOUR
FOR ALFRESCO
SPACES

CHIC TABLE
AND CHAIR SETS

BARBECUES AND
OUTDOOR OVENS

ENTER THE
**Real
HOMES
AWARDS**

For your chance
to win £2,000!

10

WAYS TO
CUT THE COST
OF YOUR NEW
BATHROOM

EASY OUTDOOR LIVING

Clever ideas to link
your home and garden

EXPERT ANSWERS

What are the best paints to use when decorating?

How do I mix modern and classic bathroom styles?

What are the dos and don'ts of renovating?



PLAN OUT YOUR SPACE

Consider the layout of the room. Do you want a formal space for dinner parties? Seating for casual catch-ups? Multiple seating areas will accommodate guests moving around as an evening progresses, so consider a more relaxed area with sofas and armchairs as well as a dining set. If you're short of space, bench seating is a smart and stylish alternative.

THE FLEXIBLE ENTERTAINING SPACE

Liz Addison and her husband, Mark, extended into their side return to create a kitchen that's perfect for relaxed social gatherings

'Thanks to our kitchen extension, our house is the place where everyone comes together,' says Liz. 'When we moved in, the layout of the property hadn't changed for about 40 years and the kitchen was tiny. It was crying out for modernisation and there was no room to sit and chat - we had to take the girls' breakfasts up to their bedrooms every morning. We wanted a big social space where we could all gather together and host friends and neighbours.'

'The three most important features we wanted from our new space were light, space and flow. I was keen to keep the kitchen units and appliances low level so that the room functioned as a living area. Originally, we had the cooker on the island with a ▶

INSTALL A BAR

As the trend for home entertaining grows, more of us are adding a mini-bar to our kitchens. A drinks cupboard installed at the end of your kitchen units or a separate island with bar stools could be a great investment if you host a lot of dinner parties. Can't afford a home bar? An Art Deco-style drinks trolley or cocktail cabinet will do the trick - try Swoon Editions or John Lewis.



INCORPORATE OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING

Slim-framed bi-fold doors are handy for creating an easy link to the outdoors - perfect for when a summer party spills out into the garden. Skylights are a great way to introduce more brightness into your extension, too: position your dining table underneath to maximise the benefits.

big extractor fan in the middle, but we decided it would break up the room too much. We wanted to be able to see around the room and chat to people without having to duck under bulky appliances.

'Our dining table was an investment, but we could afford it because we kept down the rest of the costs. It's where we gather as a family for breakfast and dinner, but it's also where we host dinner parties, so it was important to get it right.'

'When we have friends here, the difference is astonishing. In the summer, we can spill out into the garden and onto the patio area. Because it's lower down behind the rest of the garden, it's sheltered from the wind: it's like being in the Mediterranean when it's sunny! I'll switch on the outdoor lights in the evening and dress the seats with cushions to make it prettier.'

'In the autumn, we host Bonfire Night here, too. Our friends come over and the kids run around outside waving sparklers - it's always great fun.' ▶

POSITION YOUR ISLAND

If you have a kitchen island, its positioning can be crucial to how your space works, so use it to your advantage. Integrating a sink and work surface will help you avoid turning your back on guests while you're prepping meals, but also keep potentially dangerous appliances like hobs away from anywhere the children sit. Drawers at the back of the island, closest to the table, are ideal for storing glassware and serving dishes.



COSTS & CONTACTS
Project cost **£63,700**

Designer/builder
Build Team, 020 7495 6561,
buildteam.com