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# ASK THE DESIGNER...

WHAT ARE THE MOST POPULAR REQUESTS FROM CLIENTS WHEN CREATING DINING AND LIVING SPACES?



The Joinery Living Room for Family Mosaic by Suna Interior Design



**GURVINDER KHURANA**  
Director &  
Co-founder,  
align

Clients often want the best of both worlds. On the one hand, the F&B inspired theatricality of show kitchens, with an open-plan and entertainment-focused bar feel to the dining space, but they need a visual break, to be able to create more intimate and homely zones. The delineation challenge can be met by sliding doors, screens or L-shaped spaces.

[www.aligngb.com](http://www.aligngb.com)



**HELEN FEWSTER**  
Co-owner,  
Co-director,  
Suna Interior Design

The trend of keeping everything light and airy with a muted and pale palette in your living room has waned. The tendency now is to design a strong and moody space with intense, bold colours. This is a marked difference from what used to be the 'go-to' fashion and it creates a luxurious, rich, inviting and welcoming space, drawing people into the room.

[www.sunainteriordesign.com](http://www.sunainteriordesign.com)



**JO LITTLEFAIR**  
Director &  
Co-founder,  
Goddard Littlefair

Clients are asking for flexible layouts, so that even highly-glamorous dining spaces contain concealed storage. The preference, where space permits, is for a dining area to put on a show, as well as a more casual, family-oriented space, combining living and dining functions, with a statement breakfast bar and eclectic furniture, taking cues in both instances from hospitality design.

[www.goddardlittlefair.com](http://www.goddardlittlefair.com)



**KEIRA TOWNSEND**  
Founder,  
Keir Townsend

As more and more restaurants are introducing open 'show kitchens', clients ask to recreate a similar concept in their own homes. Theatrical aspect of cooking for an audience aside, taking down walls between kitchen and dining areas reflects modern living, whereby people can socialise with their guests and family whilst preparing meals.

[www.keirtownsend.com](http://www.keirtownsend.com)



**MATT SMITH**  
Shed Design

Living and dining areas are great design opportunities and more often than not we get asked to design a talking point for these spaces. We once designed a secret room behind a bookshelf, which you could only access with a certain book. That was a real after dinner talking point and a great hideaway. I suppose this is no different for a commercial F&B space where the ultimate aim is to create something unique and memorable.

[www.shed-design.com](http://www.shed-design.com)





Vauxhall Penthouse by Keir Townsend



**MILA PODIABLONSKA**  
Absolute Interior  
Decor

Most of my client requests for living and dining areas are to make the already open planned inter-connecting living and dining rooms more glamorous for entertaining, while a less formal dining area runs off the kitchen. Clients are entertaining more at home again and they want to do it in their style and their taste.

[absoluteinteriordecor.com](http://absoluteinteriordecor.com)



**REBECCA TUCKER**  
Co-owner,  
Co-director,  
Suna Interior Design

Comfort, lighting and atmosphere are key. Look to your favourite restaurant or bar and select elements that you love to bring into your own living or dining space. In terms of atmosphere, decide whether you want the space to be light and airy or dark and moody. We'd suggest that if you want a dinner party dining room go for a darker, moodier palette with adjustable lighting.

[www.sunainteriordesign.com](http://www.sunainteriordesign.com)



**THOMAS GRIEM**  
Founder,  
TG Studio

There is a trend for open storage with easy access, and clients like to display impressive items such as wine. We have designed storage walls, which include wine fridges, like you might see in a restaurant, and are currently designing a bespoke walk-in wine cellars within a living area. We are also working alongside Eggersman on a dining table that incorporates storage for cutlery and a freestanding bar unit with integrated fridge.

[www.tg-studio.co.uk](http://www.tg-studio.co.uk)



**ZOE HARTRIDGE**  
Director of Design,  
New i.d

General requests are that the dining area needs enough seating for family/ friends. The reception furniture is influenced by the position of the TV. Mirrored walls with metallic wallpapers and leather fabrics are popular, maybe influenced by restaurants at the 'Crazy Bear'. Along with hard wearing but soft tactile fabrics, such as velvet; the overall look is opulent.

[www.new-id.co.uk](http://www.new-id.co.uk)



**RORY MACPHERSON**  
Founder,  
Play Associates

The flexibility to create a relaxed atmosphere and add drama when needed is often requested. Bespoke joinery and adaptable lighting effects can help create theatrical moments when needed. F+B projects are helpful for clients to reference specific palettes and atmospheres they like; it also opens them to the idea of different finishes with copper and brass high on the agenda.

[www.play-associates.com](http://www.play-associates.com)