

The Open Floor Plan

The **Open Floor Plan** has been the dominant architectural trend in new residential construction since about 1990.

It has also been the goal in many major remodeling projects in older homes, where the objective is to join kitchen, dining room, and living room into some form of communal living space or "great room."



- Traditionally, homes built before the 1990's were designed with lots of separate rooms.
- But designers and homeowners started realizing that homes with open floor plan designs could fit more usable living space into the same amount of square footage.
- Fast forward 20 years, and spacious homes with fewer walls are more popular than ever.







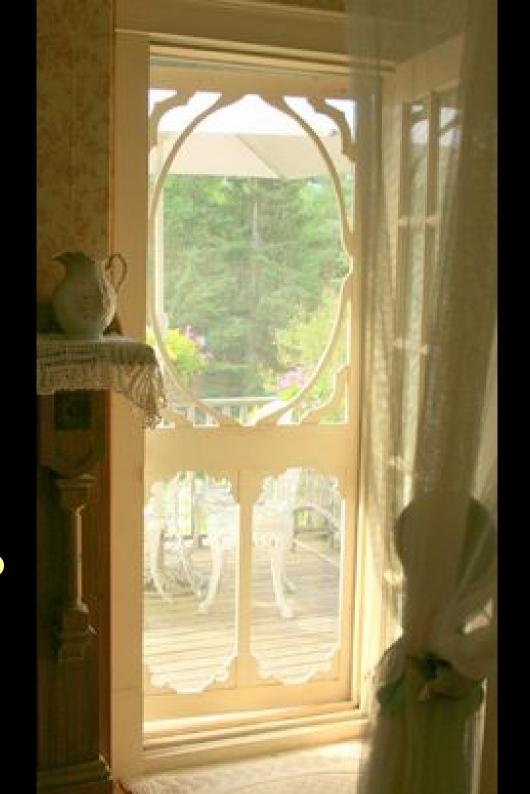


Advantages of Open Floor Plans

- 1) Better traffic flow.
- 2) Improved sociability and communication. When guests are over you can be part of the group while you cook and serve food at the same time.
- 3) Shared light.
- 4) Improved real estate value.
- 5) Easier to watch kids.

The Open Home

... what does the Bible say about opening our homes to others?





RESTRICTED AREA

PRIVATE AREA KEP OUT

Statistics On Lonely America

"We live in the most connected time in world history, yet people are more isolated than ever. We can connect with the world with the touch of a button, yet we struggle to truly build relationships with one another.

Recent studies from Duke University and the US Census Bureau suggest that our society is in the midst of a dramatic and progressive slide toward disconnection."

by Dustin Willis, Dec. 2014

- More people than ever live alone 27.2 million people.
- More people say they feel alone than ever in our history.
- More people than ever say they have no one as a confidant.
- More people than ever are considered depressed due to loneliness.
- The number of "socially isolated" Americans has doubled since 1985.

How you feel about having guests in your home will determine how they feel.

When you endeavor to be hospitable rather than to entertain, you and your guests will be more relaxed.

God is not looking for your ability but rather your availability.

Biblical hospitality leads people toward true community and counteracts isolation because most people are honored when you open your home to them.

"Christians can be generous with their time and money but stingy with their homes.

We must repent from worshiping the comfort of our homes. Christ must gain his rightful place as the only refuge in our lives.

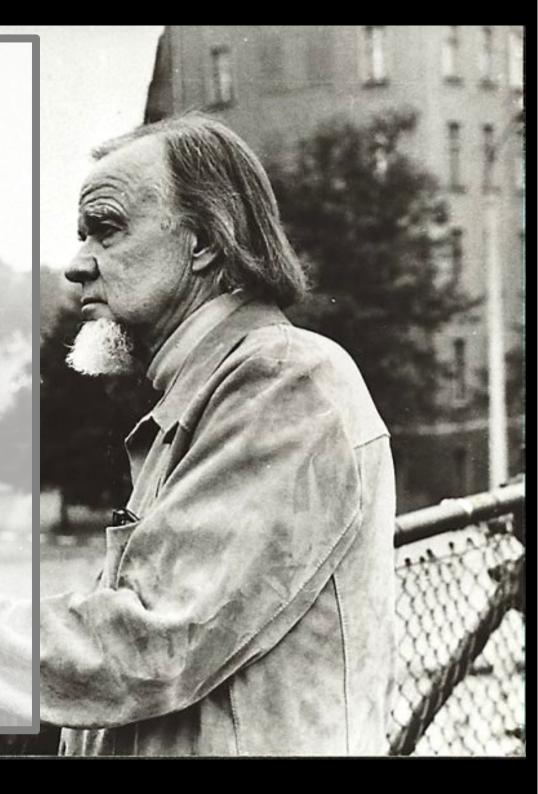
Life will change for you when your home becomes a hub of hospitality rather than a hotel for the healed."

Hospitality gives us the opportunity to display the gospel to those we welcome into our homes. Hospitality at its essence is about allowing others to feel both loved and welcomed, which is what Jesus has modeled for us in His kindness toward us. One of the greatest weapons we have been given to fight against isolation is the home.



"A compassionate open home is part of Christian responsibility, and should be practiced up to the level of capacity."

Francis A.Schaeffer



STARE WITH GOD'S PEOPLE WHO ARE IN NEED.

PRACTICE HOSPITALITY

ROMANS 12:13



OFFER HOSPITALITY TO ONE ANOTHER WITHOUT GRUMBLING. (1 PETER 4:9)





"The focus of entertaining is impressing others; the focus of true hospitality is serving others"

Tim Chester, A Meal With Jesus "1 Peter 4:9 "Be hospitable to each other without secretly wishing you hadn't got to be!" (JB Phillips)

When we mention the word 'hospitality' in churches, we often think instantly of arranging dinner parties for our friends, of social events for those whose company we like. The Biblical word means something else. It means a welcoming of strangers, of making time and space for those whom you don't as yet know very well.

Some will always be stronger than others in this area, but each of us is to have a go. If we worry about the size of our house or the standard of décor or the limits of our cooking ability, we have missed the point. Hospitality does not aim to impress people but to embrace them even as strangers with the hope that they become true neighbours. In other words, we not only open our homes but also open our hearts.

Our homes may be small or untidy or otherwise unimpressive. But if our hearts are genuinely open, we can still be hospitable. We are not out to provide a gourmet experience or to show off our taste in furniture or art. We are out to enfold someone into a circle of friendship and acceptance.

And so many of us need such enfolding.

An invitation to a meal is not primarily about filling our stomach but filling a need for human companionship and acceptance. Those who love making a fuss and providing the very best in food and trimmings may well do so as long as this is not seen as the main aim or as a means of showing off. True hospitality is experienced as we remember most fondly not the taste of the main course but the warmth of human hearts.

- David Reay

DROP IN

definition

visit somone informally and without planning

example

You are welcome to drop in anytime.

Read Article: Inconvenienced by Inconvenience by Tim Challies

"I need to learn to keep a quiet heart. To trust that if God has allowed an interruption in my day, it serves a purpose. To believe that the time to finish what work I thought needed to be done will be given. To accept that He is diverting me from my "Plan A" to His Greater Plan."

- Karen Ehman

If your house is really a mess and a stranger comes to your door, greet him with, "Who could have done this? We have no enemies!"

-Phyllis Diller



"We labor to make a house a home, then every time we're expecting visitors, we rush to turn it back into a house."

"Always keep your home presentable, assuming you keep a home for the purpose of presentation."

- Robert Brault









"You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." (Leviticus 19:34)





It's likely that everyday presents an opportunity for you to practice RADICAL HOSPITALITY to someone with whom you cross paths. There is no shortage of people who could use the fit of a caring, welcoming person in their life.

How awesome would it be if, in a time of need, the first thing people would say is, "I need a Christian!" If you expect to be that person, you'll be surprised at how often the opportunities come along for you to show love through RADICAL HOSPITALITY."- Thom Schultz



LOVE one another, As i have LOVED you.

John 13:34



Next Week: Finding Your Style and Color Choices