

# designer

December 2010. Issue 124

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# On the Cover

16 Opening up a space to create a free-flowing open plan is nothing new, but the architects on this project went several stages further

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# Keeping it Simple

Opening up a space to create a free-flowing open plan is nothing new, but the architects on this project went several stages further



“THE STAIRCASE CONNECTING THE NEW OPEN PLAN GROUND FLOOR TO THE REST OF THE HOUSE HAD TO BE AN IMPORTANT CENTRAL FEATURE”





## “THERE’S MUCH MORE TO ‘OPEN PLAN’ THAN MERELY KNOCKING A FEW WALLS DOWN”



AS lifestyles have changed over the years, the homes we live in sometimes – inevitably – fail to keep up. Compartmentalised living has steadily given way to a more seamless domestic existence that demands that the physical spaces we use in the home reflect our more flexible, social and versatile mindset.

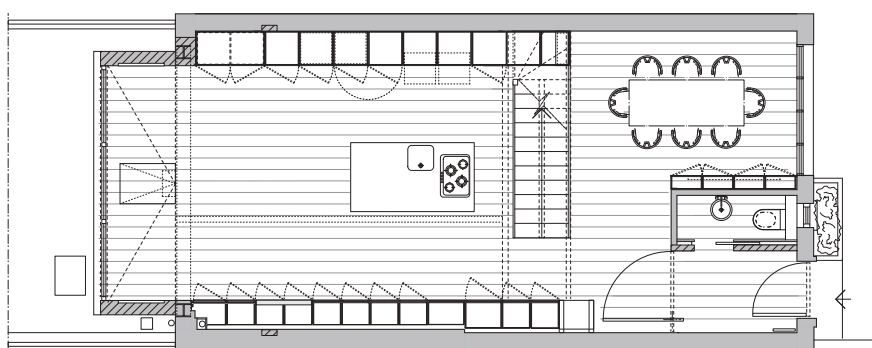
In this particular home, the young family that lived there wanted to break out of the rigidity of the highly conventional floorplan and turn the key parts of their home into a

large space to better suit their way of living.

Paul McAneary Architects responded with an open-plan design concept, to remove all of the internal walls of the existing building without any trace of columns or beams and to create a seamless connection from the entrance right through to the garden. A faceted ceiling-scape was designed to force light deeper into the ground floor plan.

It is vital that storage space is discrete within an open plan scheme so McAneary excavated a vault below the ground floor →





## “THE USE OF WARM COLOURS AND NATURAL MATERIALS CREATES A SUGGESTIVE AND RELAXING LIVING SPACE”

and the kitchen's perimeter became storage walls whose doors repeat a vertical and tranquil rhythm throughout.

By utilizing Ikea carcasses hidden behind bespoke high quality lacquered doors, McAnearney managed to keep to budget.

The finishing touches were important, and the specifications included a kitchen tap from Boffi's Minimal range, an oven and steam oven by Siemens, and a kitchen worksurface made from antibacterial reconstituted stone by Okite.

The design of the top two floors required a comparatively smaller intervention, but the

architect felt that the staircase connecting the new open plan ground floor to the rest of the house should be an important central feature. Like a passenger aircraft staircase, it appears to have been dropped from a flawless cut in the ceiling as its glass balustrades reflect and define the stairs as you descend into what used to be an old garage.

Overall, the project achieved its aim of creating a clutter free and practical space. The use of warm colours and natural materials creates a suggestive and relaxing living space whilst clever storage

concealed by high quality doors ticks all the functionality boxes and achieves contemporary design at a reasonable price.

As this project demonstrates, there's much more to 'open plan' than merely knocking a few walls down. **designer**

**Paul McAnearney Architects**  
[www.paulmcaneary.com](http://www.paulmcaneary.com)



# The Design Awards

Our photo round-up from the Design Awards 2010 gala presentation lunch...



Marc Newson received the Simon Taylor Award for Lifetime Achievement



## LIVING SPACE DESIGN OF THE YEAR



### WINNER

Paul McAneary receives the Living Space Design of the Year award from *Designer's* Managing Editor Martin Allen-Smith and guest speaker Dan Cruickshank

### WINNER

Paul McAneary, Paul McAneary Architects

### FINALISTS

Jo Dew, Porous Designs

Susan Quirke, Quirke McNamara Consultancy



Living Space Design finalists Susan Quirke and Jo Dew