

Hamilton

MAGAZINE



INTERIORS

BUZZWORTHY
DESIGNERS,
DECOR
& MORE!

Jean-Norman Iadaluca
is drumming up attention
for his hometown HPO.

Behind the *Curtain*

THE HPO IS ONE OF CANADA'S MOST RESPECTED ORCHESTRAS. WE GO BEYOND
THE BATON TO SEE WHAT GOES INTO MAKING THE MUSIC HAPPEN.

HIDDEN GEMS

WE SHINE A LIGHT ON THE
CITY'S BEST BUILDINGS,
PAST AND PRESENT.

IN A LEAGUE OF HIS OWN

THERE'S STEPHEN BRUNT
AND THEN THERE'S
EVERYONE ELSE.

A CITY DIVIDED

WHY OUR COUNCIL
NEEDS TO PREACH
VISION, NOT DIVISION.

\$3.50 | SUMMER 2016

DISPLAY UNTIL OCT 2016



PM40069100

Open Your Design Mind

AS **MELISSA DAVIS** EXPLAINS, EMOTIONAL PLANNING MAKES FOR A WELL-DESIGNED LIFE!

As a designer, my job is as much about recognizing how *not* to design a space as it is how to. Most of us embark on a redesign by first pulling inspirational pictures — pretty spaces that have the look. I, myself, usually begin by asking clients to compile boards on Pinterest so that I can start to get a literal picture into what the ideal looks like to them. It's a very telling process, for sure, especially if I ask two people, like a husband and wife, to each create their own look boards independently. Then I get the fun job of finding the common links and feeding into their individual wants. With enough acknowledgements, everyone feels like their vision is intrinsic to the resulting design.

Pretty pictures aside, great design goes deeper than window dressings, offering solutions to wants, needs and inefficiencies. Part of my design programming, and something I encourage everyone embarking on a project at home, is to walk through room by room then big picture, considering what doesn't work currently. This may be more obvious, like the dining table is too small for large groups, but it also may highlight more emotional needs, like reconnecting as a family. This process is a terrific exercise to start the dialogue about the holistic hopes. Not surprisingly, the best designers are great listeners first.

Our relationship with our homes is continually evolving. As our family and parenting dynamics and relationships changed from the be seen but not heard of the '40s and '50s to the now always watchful and at least attempted engagement of the contemporary parent, so, too, did our relationship with our kitchen once again morph. We want connectedness in our lives and the removal of walls and visual barriers in our home is a physical representation of that want. The kitchen is now the hub where the engaged hosts and watchful parent alike can be busy with the business of food prep while not missing out on the conversations of the day. This is a trend, as with most, that is born from an emotional necessity.

This new trend of open concept living is not without its downsides, but it's definitely here to stay for awhile. I, too, also live in an open concept environment and understand the day-to-day challenges. The key to success from a design perspective is to anticipate the potential pitfalls during that initial programming stage and implement solutions from the get-go.

Here are my top four open concept kitchen problems solved.



Toronto-based celebrity designer and contractor Melissa Davis is known for her appearances, creative design and reno work for various HGTV shows. Her work has been profiled nationally in print publications. With almost two decades of reno and design experience, her firm continues to service clientele throughout Ontario and the GTHA, specializing in value-adding ROI and resale consultations. Learn more at melissadavis.com.



Visual clutter on the counters

Solution: I make a point of planning a place in advance for all the larger items like small appliances and microwaves. Consider putting the microwave below the counter for ease in access by the littler family members while keeping it out of sight.



A utilitarian look kills the cozy feel to adjacent spaces

Solution: Opt for integrated appliances and warm natural materials, like wood and stone, that allows a glance from the family room to be less of a reminder the pan needs to be scrubbed. If you can't see the mess, you're less likely to be tormented by it.



Paperwork and homework will start to accumulate

Solution: The open kitchen means more of the daily functions will migrate in and inevitably be left on the counter. Plan ahead and add cabinets on the outside of the kitchen designated as homework supplies, magazines and household bills. Allocating a place will help condition the members of the family to put things away instead of leaving it to be dealt with later.



Open kitchens mean unwanted visitors under foot

Solution: Add a drink fridge on the outside edges of the kitchen. This allows both little ones and guests to grab a drink without getting in the way of the chef. Adding pre-dinner nibbles here, like cheese and grapes, along with juice boxes, allows them to fulfill their own hunger needs.