

How do I plan my first home layout?

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Truthful self-assessment of needs and requirements on one hand, available space assets and drawbacks on the other hand are the key to successful planning, particularly of small spaces. Consider seriously the way you presently live and work, and keep a relatively restricted time frame firmly in mind. If your activities and passions do not stand prominently in your life, then you do not need to accommodate them.

Space use must be essentially related to your work nature: if you are in full-time employment, your home will function as a retreat, so you need to create an informal open plan. If you need to work at home part of the time, a dedicated workspace separated from living areas is essential. First homes are often single spaces, but even where they comprise two or more distinct rooms, open layouts make a great deal of sense. It gives you the illusion of spaciousness and a great deal of flexibility in terms of emphasis and practicality. However open plans are not always recommended especially where several activities run together. Flexible ways of defining different areas include free-standing partitions or storage units, half-height counters used to block views of a kitchen, moveable screen and even furniture placement. Most people prefer a sort of enclosure for the sleeping area, although they live alone. The most elegant solutions, as well as those that maximize every centimeter of space, usually require some professional design input, but it is well worth the investment, especially if you expect to stay in your nest for some time.