

Designing a Space for Entertaining

Make sure your home is the ultimate party spot with these tips

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In a space designed by David Chang, distinctive zones separate different areas of the living space.
DAVID CHANG DESIGN ASSOCIATES

Each week, Mansion Global tackles a topic with an elite group of designers from around the world who work on luxury properties. This week we look at how to create a home that's perfectly suited for entertaining .

Having a home that's built for guests and gatherings not only makes life richer but creates a space that's inviting to all. It also blurs form and function.

"It enables you to approach the design of your home from the perspective of hospitality design," said design expert yJeffrey Beers of Jeffrey Beers International in New York.

"Take an architectural approach to layout and function and play with lush complementary materials and artistry to ensure the atmosphere is inviting and warm," Mr. Beers said.

To help your place become the ultimate party space, follow these tips from the design pros.

Create Distinctive Spaces

"Create a separation of space between public areas (the living room and dining room) and the private spaces (bedrooms and bathrooms). We favor open-plan living for public areas. With careful attention to layout, materials and art, you can create fluidity between your kitchen, dining area and living room. The overall effect is warm and social.

"Dimmers help adjust the lighting to fit the mood, and lighting wired into shelving elevates a bookcase or a display cabinet. It can transform a room and take it from day to night.

"For the public spaces, furnishings should not disrupt the overall design, specifically, its balance, function and space. Add warmth and character to an open room through the elegant and playful layering of textured materials, different mediums of art and warm tones.

"I like a versatile space where carpets can be moved for different functions and entertaining."

— Jeffrey Beers of Jeffrey Beers International in New York



At 100 Barclay in lower Manhattan designed by Jeffrey Beers, cozy seating and warm textures encourage a relaxed atmosphere.

Eric Laignel

Encourage an Easy Flow

“The key to designing the perfect entertainment space is to create options for sitting, standing, conversing and all other types of group activities. Make the space intimate with wall treatments that create texture and inviting with warm colors.

“My favorite way to encourage flow is to use banquette sofa seating similar to an upscale cocktail lounge. Easy to clean vegan leathers can be embossed with a variety of prints to choose from and super easy to wipe clean.

Lighting is everything. It’s all about layers and options. You can create up and down tube lighting to keep it classy, use a variety of recessed directional-led lights on dimmers to make it functional, and/or utilize decorative chandeliers and wall sconces to add some dimension. Make sure all are on dimmers so you can layer the lumen output from each option to create a diverse entertainment space.

“We always recommend considering acoustic panels, especially for our music lovers that may need to be sensitive to their surrounding space.”

— **Wendy Yates, creative director and founder of Abigail-Elise Design Studio in Frisco, Colorado**



A home designed by Wendy Yates, creative director and founder of Abigail-Elise Design Studio, features a large open kitchen for gathering guests.

Denver Image Photography, Tahvory Bunting

Have Flexibility

“I like to design a home that reflects continuity between special events and daily life. One important aspect of this is storage—our condominium project at 77 Greenwich, for instance, has a great closet in the entry hall for guest coats and a kitchen with many types of storage.

“The arrangement of rooms is very important—creating buffers and thresholds between spaces—as is encouraging interaction. Think comfortable seating, a commodious kitchen and a great view.”

— **Stephen Brockman, partner, Deborah Berke Partners, an architecture and interior design firm based in New York**



At 77 Greenwich in New York, designed by Deborah Berke Partners, an open-plan layout encourages an easy flow throughout the space.
Tim Williams Photography

Carefully Consider Décor

“We first draw inspiration from the place in which the home is set, the people who will inhabit it and how it will be used. The Penthouse at Four Seasons Fort Lauderdale is one such space, with an exceptional location and panoramic views.

“We created a seamless flow of internal spaces and out onto the substantial terraces.”

—London-based designer **Tara Bernerd**



Designed by Tara Bernerd, a home at Four Seasons Private Residences Fort Lauderdale offers an open-plan layout that extends to the terrace for the ideal entertaining space.
Courtesy of Four Seasons Private Residences Fort Lauderdale

Provide Ample Seating Options

“If your space allows, create two to three different areas for guests to congregate—a kitchen island with counter stools and living room areas with seating areas close enough so guests can speak comfortably.

“Allow for different seating options—sofas and chairs, benches or poufs—where people can relax and convene. If you plan to entertain a lot, I would think about a performance fabric. Many furniture retailers offer them as choices now, so that you don’t need to worry about spills or stains.”

— **Holly Waterfield, Lead Designer, Interiors of The Jackson Home Company in Jackson, Wyoming**



Designed by Holly Waterfield, lead designer, interiors of The Jackson Home Company, this home blends indoor and outdoor living space, ideal for entertaining.
Tuck Flaunteroy

Keep it Comfy

“Comfortable furniture is a must, and it should be built for wear and tear against food and drinks and be easy to clean. Circulate the layout of furniture to create a comfortable interaction and flow between residents and guests.”

— **David Chang of David Chang Design Associates in Beijing, China**

Consider an Open Plan

“Zones can be created for very specific activities, such as games, puzzles, movie-watching or simply conversation.”

— **Kendall Wilkinson of Kendall Wilkinson Design in San Francisco**