

Triangle

DECEMBER 2021

# HOME

## DESIGN & DECOR

### GREAT GATHERINGS

*PLUS:*  
THE ULTIMATE  
GIFT GUIDE

A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC:  
WHEN DINING &  
DESIGN MEET





# OPEN FOR ENTERTAINMENT

BY JON RUFFY

EVEN BEFORE THE PANDEMIC BEGAN, HOMEOWNERS WERE ASKING FOR LARGER ENTERTAINMENT SPACES IN THEIR NEW HOMES.

Add to that the sudden realization in 2020 that home was the best place to socialize, and the request for larger gathering spaces has become a requirement in luxury homebuilding. Grander and more open indoor and outdoor spaces are not a trend; they are here to stay as homeowners embrace this new way of looking at their homes as a retreat for the family and the hub of *all* gatherings.

The movement has its roots in the emergence of great rooms in the early 1990s, our industry's first attempt at designing a space large enough for the entire family to assemble, replacing the smaller formal living room. Today, we are doing a much better job of opening up the home for both indoor and outdoor entertaining, as homeowners have a renewed interest in replacing formal rooms with more fun and multifunctional spaces.

The most requested features in new homes are completely focused around relaxing and entertaining. For example, custom bars are no longer relegated to the kitchen; some houses even feature multiple bars in different areas of the house. In fact, I am enjoying a fully re-modeled home myself with a larger,



“WE ARE REPLACING FORMAL ROOMS, SUCH AS THE DINING ROOM, WITH CREATIVE SPACES SUCH AS A WINE ROOM, LIBRARY, OR HOME OFFICE.”





open kitchen and custom bar I added in the great room, where it is used frequently when visitors drop by.

Kitchens have become even more of a centralized place for gathering with the rise of the scullery, which not only keeps the main kitchen cleaner but serves as the perfect prep and staging area for parties.

Overall, new home design is embracing multifunctional, open, and informal spaces. We are replacing formal rooms, such as the dining room, with creative spaces such as a wine room, library, or home office. We are substituting multifunctional capability in formerly single-use areas like theater rooms, adding in gaming areas and niches for work-at-home business presentations.

Opening up for entertainment is not just for interior spaces. Every home we build today has plenty of outdoor entertainment options, including screened porches accessed by multi-slide glass doors, a fire pit, and pool, as well as professionally hardscaped and landscaped entertainment areas.

Open floor plans have been around for a while, and now they are becoming expansive, accommodating, and multifunctional to serve diverse family needs. This isn't a trend in my book. We have discovered the joy of a well-designed custom home. ♦