

MANSION GLOBAL

DESIGNER'S CORNER

Divide and Conquer: How to Create Separation, Chicly

Rows of potted plants, a floating island, Japanese screens or a hanging textile can all create privacy and delineate areas in an open floor plan



Designed by Allen Saunders, this great room features a custom-crafted wood slab connected horizontally to a structural column, which creates spatial division yet maintains unobstructed views
ALLEN SAUNDERS DESIGN

An open-plan concept is certainly coveted, but what to do with all that space —especially when family members now need to work, learn, play, plus get dinner on the table all at once?

“Dividing sizable areas into zones can create intimate areas allowing for a multitude of functions,” says Allen Saunders, founder and design director Allen Saunders Design in Miami. “Creating distinct gathering, working, dining or relaxation areas that can be viewed through from one to the next will visually expand a space,” he said.

For creative ways to delineate zones, follow these tips from the design pros.

Get Creative

“Screening alternatives range from a simple row of potted plants and a rod hung with textile panels to strategically placed floating islands of custom cabinetry. For a causal effect, stretched woven rope can create spatial divisions. For one project, we separated a game area from a media area by floating a large television in a shadowbox from a blackened steel wrapped column. This produced eye-level separation of the two spaces leaving open areas above and below.

“Thoughtfully arranged furniture groupings, such as sofa-style seating placed for conversation or focused TV viewing, break down a large room into separate zones. Spaces containing reclining armchairs accompanied by ottomans create comfortable reading areas.”

— Allen Saunders founder and design director Allen Saunders Design in Miami