Open-Plan Kitchen Design: Connecting Living Spaces

An open-plan kitchen is viewed from the sofa, dining table and entrance as well as from the cooking area. Its design should work from all those positions. Begin by planning how the rooms connect, then decide which kitchen elements should stand out and which should remain visually quiet.

Look across the whole space

Place the dining table, seating and major kitchen elements on the same plan. Consider the main routes between rooms and the views from frequently used seats. Avoid treating the kitchen boundary as the end of the design; a tall cabinet or island can influence how the adjoining living area feels.

Choose a consistent material thread

Repeat one or two elements across the spaces, such as a timber tone or a restrained metal detail. The furniture does not need to match exactly. A connection in colour or proportion can be enough to make the areas feel related while allowing the kitchen to retain its own character.

Decide what stays visible

Review the room with everyday appliances, washing-up and food preparation in mind. Closed storage or a carefully positioned tall unit may help manage busy views. Keep useful objects near their working locations, however. Concealment should not make the kitchen cumbersome to use whenever someone prepares a simple meal.

Coordinate the practical systems

Discuss cooking extraction and lighting with the relevant specialists, using the actual room and appliance information. Consider how the kitchen will look when the living room is being used in the evening. Separate lighting controls can be discussed as part of that plan, allowing the kitchen's working and social roles to be considered together.

Ask Fabbro to review your kitchen alongside the adjoining dining and living spaces.