

# Trends: Outlasting the Pandemic

The pandemic has given rise to or accelerated several trends in home design that will outlast this year of troubled living.

## LAYERED KITCHENS

While the open-plan layout has long been a fixture of modern homes, many people have found that when it comes to kitchens, less exposure is better — at least when it comes to concealing the mess. Enter this new trend that was emerging even before the pandemic.

The idea is to create two kitchens — and area for prep, cooking and cleanup concealed by a wall, door or hall and a display area, geared more toward hanging out while hiding the dirty work.

The latter is the show kitchen where, for example, the feast is laid out for display or the beverage area, where family and friends gather around a coffee station, a beverage refrigerator or wine cooler.

## OUTDOOR LIVING

Stuck at home, people wanted to be outside more than just about anything. At home, that meant more time focused on outdoor living and



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## REAL ESTATE 101

### Health-Minded Communities

There's a reason you notice more juice bars, workout spaces and more lushly designed relaxation areas in apartment communities and at community spaces in the suburbs. It's part of a movement such as WELL Building Standards that focus on creating more healthy communities that consider not just sustainable energy but emotional wellness. Learn more about the WELL Building Standard at [wellcertified.com](https://wellcertified.com).

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In the summer, that meant outdoor dining areas, some with complete cooking areas

for family and friends within your "bubble" to gather safely.

In the winter, creating warmth with fire pits and patio heaters was the order of

the day — and night.

Patio heaters, in particular, have become more popular, inspired by what many had already experienced at restau-

rants in cooler weather before the pandemic. They became an element of survival for restaurants seeking to draw customers in the colder months as the pandemic dragged on.

While these features existed pre-pandemic, their value increased this year and will likely live on as more people spend more time outdoors at their homes than before.

## ZOOM ROOMS

No app gained more popularity this year than Zoom. Connecting to work and with family using Zoom became essential. Along with its use came a certain self-consciousness about surroundings and the creation of so-called Zoom rooms.

Many learned the secrets of camera positioning and angles, as well as backgrounds and creating a "look" — a trend that met its zenith in the popular Twitter feed of the Room Rater, who rated the rooms of journalists and celebrities broadcasting from their homes and issued them rankings.

The work-from-home trend has been accelerated because of the pandemic — as well as the freedom to live anywhere and connect online — so the creation of permanent Zoom rooms will surely become a fixture in the homes of those who enjoy that luxury.



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### HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

**Assignee:** The person responsible if the rights and responsibilities for a property are transferred to a new person. SOURCE: MLS.com

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