

Take inspiration from Charlotte and Stephen to separate a long, narrow room into useful zones



INTERIOR DESIGN

SALLIE CHATER

Founder and director of her own interior design company, Interiors at 58, Sallie believes in creating luxurious, elegant and original schemes at affordable prices

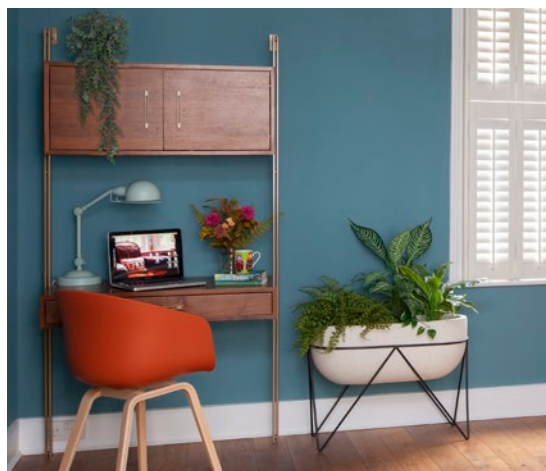
ZONED OUT

Longer living spaces are becoming more common as homeowners opt to open up two smaller reception rooms to create one larger area. The challenge is how to furnish and decorate them to keep a cosy feel.

Break up the space in a long living room rather than have all your furniture on one wall, which can create a tunnel effect. Arrange it on opposite sides of the room to make several zones – this then creates a more interesting S-shape walkway. Start with a comfortable space to watch TV, incorporating two smaller sofas rather than one large one. Position them facing each other to make a sociable seating arrangement. The room will feel wider, and there will also be enough space to walk through on one side. Alternatively, a corner sofa will give plenty of seating and delineate the zone. If you also want a more formal area for entertaining guests, go for elegant occasional chairs around a central coffee table.

Creating zones Next, consider other uses for the room. If you need a place to work, you can make a small office space along one wall with a bureau desk that neatly folds away to hide paperwork. Built-in corner bookshelves will add wow factor and create a cosy nook to read or listen to music, while comfortable armchairs and a side table with angled lamps offer a flexible and functional layout. If you have a smaller kitchen, you could zone one part of the living room as a dining area. A round table will break up any angles, but make sure you can still move around it freely. Make this area feel extra special with a statement wallpaper and pendant light. Finally, a seating area opposite a window or glass door can create a quiet space away from the main living area. Green accent tones will bring the outside in and enhance the peaceful feel.

Defining colours Using different paint tones from the same family of colours will help to mark out each zone. Darker shades create a restful atmosphere – great for a reading area – while lighter tones are more energising and sociable.



SHOP THE LOOK



1



2



3



4



5



6

1 Velvet cushion by House Doctor, £38, Hurn & Hurn 2 Air Force Blue absolute matt emulsion, £22/L, Little Greene 3 Ferm Living plant box in light grey, £179, Cloudberry Living 4 Nappa table lamp, £130, Oliver Bonas 5 Floret occasional chair, £468, Anthropologie 6 Orrico rose-gold hammered-aluminium coffee table, £250, Habitat FOR STORE DETAILS SEE WHERE TO BUY PAGE