

# CONTEMPORARY

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# HOUSE

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# What is contemporary?

**Contemporary architecture** is a broad and constantly changing category, since it reflects what a variety of architects are creating today.

**Contemporary style homes** have a distinctive feel because of the way those architects have built on the modern style that broke from traditional architectural models.

**Contemporary house design** integrates a wide number of style features. It melds historic elements with current lifestyle concepts—resulting in homes that are warm, inviting and connected with the outdoors.



# History of Contemporary Style Houses

Contemporary style homes first started appearing in the early 1900's.

The term “Contemporary Architecture” refers to architecture of the present day.

Other forms of modern style housing include:

- Deconstructivist
- Critical Regionalism
- Postmodern

**Modern: 1920s – 1970s**

**Contemporary: 1970s – Present**

# Modern or Contemporary: What's the Difference?

At their most literal, "contemporary" is the architecture being produced now, the architecture of the moment. "Modern" architecture breaks with the past — specifically the traditional styles of before the Industrial Revolution.

In this sense "contemporary" is not limited to a single stylistic thread. And "modern" recalls the early- and mid-20th-century architecture embodying the ideals of the machine age: **an absence of ornament, structures of steel or concrete, large expanses of glass, a whitewash (usually stucco over brick) or another minimal exterior expression, and open floor plans.**

There is an evident use of the term "contemporary" that refers to a particular strain of design today, such that new postmodern, neo-Classical or other neo-traditional buildings are not included. The term's use is clearly narrower than the literal definition, **yet it is still rooted in the now; contemporary architecture is of its time, therefore innovative and forward-looking.** In this sense it is rooted in the modern, even if it does not resemble it stylistically.

# Modern vs. Contemporary



by Amitzi Architects

Modern architecture incorporates glass windows where walls would traditionally have existed (note the corner windows here), whitewash or white stucco, and intentional asymmetry. Flat roofs and distinct right angles are inherent in modern architecture as well.

## Today's Contemporary: Understated but Significant Architecture



The MuSh Residence

Contemporary architecture can be identified in this home by several critical characteristics: solid walls covered in randomly spaced (as opposed to whitewash), and a decided cantilever that is balanced by a notch on the other side of the building. Similar to modern architecture, this contemporary home has a flat roof and a boxy feel.

# Modern vs. Contemporary

## Modern



House K by Amitzi Architects

The solid walls are treated to the same whitewash. The window treatment is of note here; the louvered screens cut down on direct sunlight. Even though hermetically sealed office buildings give the impression that modern architecture ignores climate, many early- and mid-20th-century modern buildings used architectural elements in response to sun, wind, etc. This simple house is rooted in that modern vein.



Skyline Residence in Los Angeles Belzberg Architects

Like the previous example, the Skyline Residence in Los Angeles uses architectural elements to cut down on direct sunlight. Yet the design by Belzberg Architects articulates the horizontal wood planks in a manner that is contemporary: they angle and overlap, giving a feather-like appearance. The form of the house is also quite interesting

# Modern vs. Contemporary

## Modern: Clean Interiors



Modern design is born from a vantage point of trying hard to break from tradition. Traditional spaces tend to be full, both visually and physically. Modern spaces, on the other hand, embrace simplicity in adornment. Modern interiors are clean and fresh, perhaps with a hint or two of color added.

## Today's Contemporary: Open Floor Plan.



Carrying through the desire for an inherent feeling of spaciousness in a contemporary space is the inclusion of an open floor plan. Kitchen merges with dining merges with living. The effect is simultaneously airy and comfortably livable.

# Modern vs. Contemporary

**Modern: Raised, Open Furniture.**



Modern furniture tends to be raised off the floor and open, thus giving the entire space a feeling of airiness. Furniture lines of modern design are clean and relatively simple, with minimal adornment or embellishment.

**Today's Contemporary: Unique Forms.**



Today's design lovers are all about showcasing individuality and personal style. Thus, unique forms often take center stage in a contemporary space. Paired with a glass tabletop, every design element of these unique dining chairs is highlighted.

# Modern vs. Contemporary

**Modern: Minimal, Unadorned Style.**



A key component of modern design is its minimalism – using the least to achieve the most. The result is a clutter-free space where attention is placed in the details, whether they be architectural, artistic, or furniture-related.

**Today's Contemporary: Simple, Clean Lines**



Clean-lined furniture is perhaps one of the most apparent places where today's contemporary style merges with the popular modern style. Basic forms, clean lines, beautiful yet simple shapes, and a focus on comfort all blend together in today's contemporary furniture styles.

# Modern vs. Contemporary

**Modern: Natural Materials**



**Today's Contemporary: Natural Materials**



# Modern vs. Contemporary

**Modern: White Walls**



**Today's Contemporary: Large Windows**



# Modern vs. Contemporary

## Modern: Bare Floors



Bare floors are part of modern design's less-is-more mantra. Of course, sometimes area rugs are used in a modern space, but they are usually a neutral tone and made of natural materials (e.g., wool, jute, sisal).

## Today's Contemporary: Seamless Interior/Exterior Transitions



Large windows also play a key role in aiding one of the contemporary delights of bringing the outside inside. This creates a balance and harmonious combination of manmade and nature.

# Modern vs. Contemporary

**Modern: Plywood, Plastic, & Polished Metal.**



Optical Glass House, Hiroshima  
Hiroshi Nakamura & NAPS

**Today's Contemporary: Emphasis on Comfort**



Optical Glass House, Hiroshima  
Hiroshi Nakamura & NAPS

# Key Features of Contemporary House Design

- Irregular, asymmetrical facade
- Strong, geometric shapes
- Extensive use of natural light
- Open floor plan in L, T, H or U shape to embrace outdoor space
- Flexible layout to adapt to changes in family needs
- Large windows, often placed non-symmetrically
- Clerestory windows
- One or two stories
- Natural, local or recycled building materials
- Sustainable, eco-friendly materials such as bamboo flooring and granite countertops
- Green heating, air-conditioning and plumbing systems to conserve energy
- Distictive roofline - sometimes flat, other times gable usually with wide eave overhang

# Irregular Asymmetrical Facade



Villiot-Rapée Apartments by Hamonic + Masson



Dune House by JVA + Mole Architects

# Strong Geometrical Shapes



Maison L by Christian Pottgiesser  
Paris, France



House in Leiria by Aires Mateus  
Leiria, Portugal

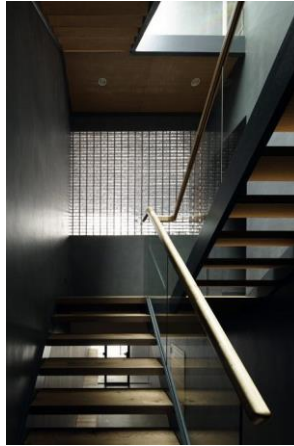


O House by Philippe Stuebi Architekten  
Vierwaldstättersee, Switzerland

# Extensive Use of Natural Light



Optical Glass House, Hiroshima  
Hiroshi Nakamura & NAPS



Residents are faced with the staircase upon first entering the house. A water basin skylight is positioned immediately above and projects more light patterns onto the floor.



**Sunlight from the east, refracting through the glass, creates beautiful light patterns.** Rain striking the water-basin skylight manifests water patterns on the entrance floor. Filtered light through the garden trees flickers on the living room floor, and a super lightweight curtain of sputter-coated metal dances in the wind. **Although located downtown in a city, the house enables residents to enjoy the changing light and city moods, as the day passes, and live in awareness of the changing seasons.**

# Windows

## Non-symmetrical windows



Clerestory windows

# Typical Materials

Since Contemporary style homes are inspired by a **more efficient green design**, they are composed of relatively **renewable materials**.

- Wood
- Recycled Metals
- Steel
- Glass



# Natural, Local or Recycled Building Materials



Local Rock House by Pattersons Associates, New Zealand.

- Material was sourced from local stone.
- Home is designed to merge with the environment, where the stone matches the grounds near the beach and the private sections above mimic the nature of the trees around them.



Pohutukawa Beach House by Herbst Architects, New Zealand

- Two levels are laced with wood and floor-to-ceiling glass, making the coastal environment the central focus of its design.

# Sustainable, Eco-friendly Materials



Dune House, Mark Koehler Architects

Its features;

- ecological materials,
- special cross-laminated composites,
- passive heating
- cooling functionality.



# Green Heating, Air-conditioning and Plumbing Systems to Conserve Energy



The Infiniski Manifesto House, Curacaví, Chile. Jaime Gaztelu and Mauricio Galeano

The Infiniski Manifesto House is a prefabricated building of contemporary sustainable house design.



The modular home is composed of two 40' shipping containers and two 20' containers. The wooden pallets that used on the home exterior gives it fantastic texture, but also has purpose, they provide shade and allow the home design to be naturally cooled, since **air can move freely between the slats**.

Infiniski designs and builds eco-friendly houses and buildings based on the use of recycled building material, re-used building material and non polluting materials and the integration of alternative and renewable green energy.

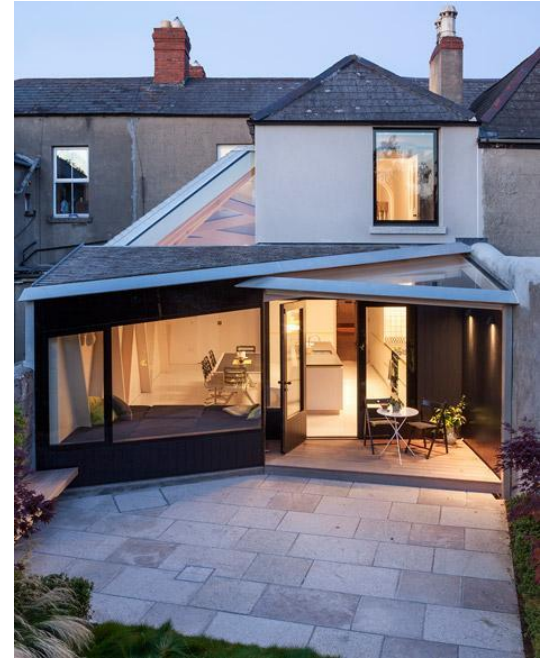
inexpensive storefront windows are used as the walls, which can be slid **open to naturally ventilate the sustainable house design**. There is also a folding screen to create a covered outdoor porch or shade the interior from the sun when folded down. **Geothermal heat pumps also help provide heating and cooling**.

# Distinctive Roofline



C-House by Dot Architecture, Ireland

- Chunky chimneys bring natural light and ventilation inside the three adjoining blocks that comprise this dark grey house



Scale of Ply by NOJI Architects, Dublin

- The three different plywood structures each perform a different task – the glulam beams support the first floor above, the diagrid creates a ceiling above the kitchen, and the lattice forms the walls and roof of the extension.

# Posters

## STRUCTURE

### Materials & Shape

Since Contemporary style homes are inspired by a more efficient green design, they are composed of relatively renewable materials.

Wood  
Recycled Metals  
Steel  
Glass  
Natural, Local Building  
Materials



## ARCHITECTURE

Contemporary home plan with large kitchen and three bedrooms. Suitable to narrow lot. Big windows and spacious interiors.

Large windows also play a key role in aiding one of the contemporary delights of bringing the outside inside. This creates a balance and harmonious combination of manmade and nature.



Seamless  
Interior/Exterior  
Transitions



## INTERIOR

### Colours & Materials

Materials such as stainless steel, marble, granite or even concrete are often used.

Stainless steel appliances, hardware or even counter tops can denote a contemporary kitchen.



### Furniture

Carrying through the desire for an inherent feeling of spaciousness in a contemporary space is the inclusion of an open floor plan. Kitchen merges with dining merges with living.

# Posters

**Contemporary architecture** is a broad and constantly changing category, since it reflects what a variety of architects are creating today.

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**Interest in contemporary home design is on the rise:**



## CONTEMPORARY HOUSE

*Whats on the outside ?*

Homeowners are increasingly requesting:

Front / Side Porch  
Contemporary Style  
Simpler Detailing  
Single-story homes



*Heart of the House*

Many contemporary home designs emphasize the kitchen as the center of the home.

*Contemporary or Modern?*

While both style focus on simplicity and clean lines, they are originated at different times.



*Most popular special-function rooms:*

Home office  
Mud room  
Outdoor Living Space  
Media / Home Theater  
Au pair / in-law suite  
Interior Greenhouse

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- Clorestory windows
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55% of the architects report open floor plans are rising in popularity.

# Posters

## contemporary house

### contemporary or modern?



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### contemporary house

Contemporary house plans focus on **livability**, with unique spaces designed to meet homeowners' needs.

#### Most popular special-function rooms:

Home office  
Mud room  
Outdoor Living Space  
Media / Home Theater  
Au pair / in-law suite  
Interior Greenhouse  
Other

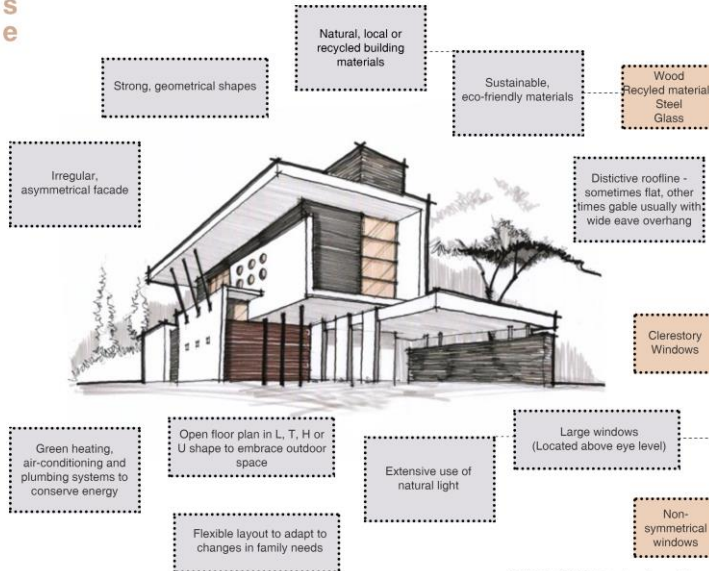
Many contemporary home designs emphasize the **kitchen as the center of the home**.

Top requested kitchen features:  
Computer work / recharging area  
Integration with family space  
Recycling station  
Adaptability / universal design  
Pantry Space

#### What's on the Outside?

Homeowners are increasingly requesting

-Front / Side Porch  
-Simpler Detailing  
-Contemporary Style  
-Single-story homes



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