



Modern new builds can often feel a bit clinical or lacking in character. The sleek lines, minimalist finishes, and neutral color palettes are stylish but can sometimes miss the warmth and charm of older homes. The key to creating a welcoming, personalised space in a new build is to layer in details that bring depth, texture, and personality. Here are ten design ideas to help add soul to your modern space:

### **Wooden Panel Moulding**

Introducing wooden panel moulding to your walls is an effective way to create depth and a sense of timeless elegance. This classic feature transforms flat surfaces into more visually interesting walls. Whether you choose a simple wainscot, classic beadboard, or more intricate raised panels, adding moulding instantly elevates your space and brings in a traditional touch.

### **Cornicing for Ceilings**

Cornicing is a traditional architectural detail that adds refinement to any room. By creating a soft transition between the walls and ceilings, cornicing brings in a sense of completion and elegance. It's a subtle but powerful way to balance the sleek lines of a modern space with a hint of old-world charm.

### **Accent Lighting Above Art**

Lighting can change everything. Accent lighting, such as picture lights or downlights above artwork, draws attention to your favorite pieces and adds a layer of sophistication. This approach not only highlights special elements in the room but also creates an inviting and artful atmosphere, similar to that of a gallery.

### **Statement Vintage Pieces**

To break up the modernity of new builds, it's a good idea to incorporate one or two statement vintage pieces. Whether it's a retro armchair, a mid-century sideboard, or a vintage mirror, these items bring in a sense of history and warmth. They can serve as conversation starters and give your space an inviting, lived-in feel.

### **Layering Textures**

Layering different textures is essential to creating a warm and welcoming home. While modern designs often focus on sleek finishes, the addition of soft, tactile materials like wool, linen, velvet, and natural wood helps to break up the clean lines and add visual interest. This layering of textures gives a space depth and a cosy, inviting atmosphere.

## **Natural Materials**

Natural materials such as stone, wood, and reclaimed elements bring an organic, grounded feel to any modern home. They soften sharp lines and provide a connection to nature, making your space feel more welcoming and relaxing. By introducing materials like a reclaimed wood dining table, a stone accent wall, or wooden beams, you can create a balance between modernity and nature.

## **Personalised Wall Art**

Displaying personalised artwork or family photos is a simple but impactful way to make your space feel like home. By curating art that resonates with you—whether it's family portraits, custom paintings, or unique travel finds—you're telling your story through your space. Custom framing can elevate even the simplest art and add a professional, polished look.

## **Feature Fireplace**

A feature fireplace can serve as the heart of your home, providing both a visual focal point and a source of warmth. Even in modern builds, a sleek, contemporary fireplace or an electric version can create a cosy gathering space. Fireplaces instantly elevate a room's ambiance and make it feel more intimate and welcoming.

## **Bold Accent Walls**

One of the easiest ways to add character to a modern home is with a bold accent wall. Whether you use a rich paint color or opt for textured wallpaper, a well-designed accent wall can add depth and visual interest to any room. It allows you to express your personality without overwhelming the entire space, creating a dynamic yet balanced look.

## **Bespoke Joinery**

Bespoke joinery is not just functional; it's an opportunity to showcase your style and create a space that is uniquely yours. Custom shelving, cabinetry, or built-ins can enhance the practicality of your space while adding an elegant touch. Consider incorporating shelving that fits your specific needs or custom cabinetry that adds a sense of craftsmanship and personalisation to your home.

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Transform a modern new build into a home full of character, warmth, and personality. Adding soul to a modern space doesn't mean compromising on contemporary style—it's about finding the balance between modernity and elements that make a space truly feel like home.

