

## THE BIG TICKET

## internal doors

THEY'RE AN INTEGRAL ELEMENT OF EVERY HOME, SO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS VITAL FEATURE WITH THESE SIMPLE IDEAS

In the modern home, we're increasingly welcoming flexible layouts with the option to close the door behind us, creating a space that feels cosy. 'Open spaces are not gone, but adaptability is becoming crucial,' says Giulio Malberti of Italian design brand Rimadesio. Internal doors aid the flow of movement around the home – but despite being a key architectural pillar, they often get overlooked. We speak to the experts to find out what options are out there to try.

**Internal glass doors are having a moment.** Not only do they look slick and sophisticated, but they're practical, too, letting in more light, beneficial for smaller, cramped homes. Meanwhile, they still maintain a sound barrier and can be tailored to have an element of privacy with frosted or fluted glass. 'Glass can satisfy different functional needs, guaranteeing openness and privacy at the same time,' says Chiara Lualdi, marketing director at Lualdi. Pivot glass doors are a fantastic alternative to traditional and sliding doors; they tend to be streamlined designs with super-slim profiles and a modern frame, and work by rotating around a mechanism rather than being hinged at the side. Crittall is a popular internal glass option too, though may not be suitable for all interiors – the style may feel out of place in more traditional schemes.

**Pocket doors save valuable space for an uncluttered aesthetic.** They run on a track, receding into a mounted frame. 'Over time, this door model has evolved to become an architectural element that characterises and defines the fluidity of spaces,' says Chiara. The technology for sliding pocket systems has significantly improved over the years, too. However, there is still one



lingering issue, says Irene Gunter of London-based firm, Gunter & Co. 'I would not choose a pocket door for a room where privacy is needed,' she explains. 'While it may work well for an en suite bathroom or between a dining room and a kitchen, it is not ideal between the hallway and a bedroom or home office, for example.' Sound and smells easily travel through pocket doors.

**The ideal height for your internal door is at least 2.2m high – but preferably 2.4-2.5m high.** 'If your interiors are more classical with a coving and architrave, leave a reasonable amount of space between the top of your door frame and the underside of your coving – at least 100mm,' says Irene. Both the door frame and the coving serve as decorative elements – by leaving a space between them, you allow each element to be appreciated individually. Also consider whether the doors swing into or

out of the room, or slide into a pocket. These choices can greatly impact the user-friendliness and circulation of a space.

**We're seeing a rise in warmer polished nickel and bronze hardware.** 'Bronze is definitely having a moment,' says Céline Erlam, founder of Indie & Co. 'It's a good compromise between the brass, which for some is a little too much, and black, which can feel too modern. We are also using ceramic more as you can play with colours.' There is a move towards more discreet hinge solutions and technology is rapidly evolving. 'Lualdi has over time engineered hardware and accessories that combine ease of use and technical performance, while responding to stylistic needs – for example, hinges that disappear and tracks capable of managing the movement of complex sliding systems,' says Chiara. The future of doors, it seems, looks even smarter.