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**Q** I have a long narrow room I want to divide into a dining and living area. How can I define each section's function while maintaining the visual appeal of an open plan?

**A** *Interior designer Amgad Kamel from AK Interiors:* Keep the look smooth with a mix of low-height furniture and a balanced colour palette. It's a good idea to offset the length of the room with a round or square dining table. Low-back dining chairs and a sofa will help define the functional areas and will also continue the visual flow of the room. Alternatively, place a rug in either area to help define its zone. An eco-smart fireplace (which is freestanding and transparent) could also break up the room, while textured paint or wallpaper on one of the narrow walls will provide a dramatic focal point and create an ending to the space. *To contact AK Interiors, call (02) 9629 7815.*

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