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## James Hardie Modern Homes Forecast 2026 Creative Expression and the Future of Adaptive, Human-Centred Homes

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### 1. How does the STEPIC framework support strategic residential design analysis?

STEPIC links demographic change, regulatory pressures, technological adoption and cultural behaviour to spatial planning, material specification and performance outcomes.

### 2. How does functional zoning improve a home's usability?

It separates public, private and service areas, improving privacy, acoustic control and simultaneous use of spaces.

### 3. How does autonomous living influence architectural design priorities in residential projects?

Autonomous living shifts design priorities toward energy independence, passive environmental performance and reduced operational complexity.

### 4. In the 2026 interpretation, how has the Mid-Century Modern style evolved?

The evolved Mid-Century Modern introduces expressive colour, playful geometry and tactile finishes. The focus shifts toward emotional connection and personal identity alongside functionality.

### 5. Why is efficient spatial planning increasingly important in contemporary housing design?

Declining lot sizes and rising costs require layouts that maximise usable space while maintaining comfort and functionality.

### 6. Identify one architectural strategy that supports multigenerational living and explain its functional benefits.

One strategy is agile zoning, which separates private and shared areas to allow independence while maintaining social connection between occupants. Alternatively, accessible design measures, such as step-free thresholds and wider circulation paths, support varied mobility needs and enable ageing-in-place, improving long-term usability of the home.