

✦ The island benchtop, measuring a generous 2.4mx900mm, stands well clear of 'work zones', allowing it to double as an uncluttered surface in the living space. Incorporated into the island is a Fisher & Paykel CoolDrawer fridge/freezer.

✦ The integrated fridge and two pantries are housed in these tall cabinets.

✦ "We knew we couldn't afford real marble for this project, so Caesarstone was the obvious alternative for the benchtop," says Lana. "We wanted a white-based stone that looked like marble. The Statuario Nuvo won our vote because its white base is quite creamy, which we knew would work in harmony with the pale-green cabinetry."

## Design file

# PALE AND INTERESTING

Striving for an 'un-kitcheny' kitchen was the starting point for this dreamy designer space.

✦ "We've bucked the trend of matching metallics by combining gold handles and pendants with a silver kitchen mixer," says Lana. "We knew the gold handles would look stunning with the cabinetry, and we fell in love with the white and silver gooseneck tap, especially when it allowed us to choose a matching white oven."

✚ An integrated Fisher & Paykel rangehood is housed in cabinetry and painted in Taubmans Misty Lake to match the lower cupboards. “There are no other overhead cabinets, so it makes the rangehood a feature,” says Lana.

✚ The benchtop material, Caesarstone’s Statuario Nuvo, extends up the wall as a splashback and wraps around the floating shelf. Stonemasons from Architectural Stone Concepts bookmatched the veins.

## The brief

When the trio from Three Birds Renovations renovated this home in Sydney’s Hills district, they were determined to make the kitchen “not too clinical or kitcheny”, says Lana Taylor, one of the ‘birds’. With the 4.3x2.7m kitchen occupying a corner of a newly created open living zone, they wanted it to integrate seamlessly with the adjacent areas. “It had to look less like a kitchen and more like an extension of the living spaces,” says Lana.

## The solution

To ensure an ‘un-kitcheny’ look, Lana and her colleagues chose Taubmans Misty Lake, a beautiful eau de nil, for the cabinetry. “We wanted it to feel soft and muted but still have a bit of personality,” says Lana. This has been amplified by the addition of gold handles and knobs. To make the joinery appear more like furniture than kitchen cabinetry, the team opted for a fully integrated fridge and dishwasher. “We also created an island bench that looks more like a table, opted for no overhead cabinetry and installed a floating shelf,” says Lana. ▶

*Three Birds Renovations,  
Sydney, New South Wales;  
[www.threebirdsrenovations.com](http://www.threebirdsrenovations.com).*

## THE DETAILS

**Cabinetry** Two-pack polyurethane in Taubmans Misty Lake.

**Benchtops** Statuario Nuvo, from \$1200/m<sup>2</sup> (installed), Caesarstone.

**Splashback and floating shelf** Statuario Nuvo, from \$1200/m<sup>2</sup> (installed), Caesarstone.

**Handles and knobs** Exclusively sourced by Carrera by Design, POA.

**Tap** Vixen Retractable mixer in White and Chrome, \$414, Dorf.

**Sink** Prism large single undermount bowl, \$873, Clark.

**Pendant lights** Copenhagen pendants in Gold, \$170 each, Domayne.

**Flooring** Belle laminate flooring in Alpine Oak Ice Grey, Godfrey Hirst Floors.

## THE APPLIANCES

**Fridge** Fisher & Paykel 60cm Integrated Fridge-Freezer.

**Oven** Fisher & Paykel 60cm 7-Function Single Built-In Oven.

**Cooktop** Fisher & Paykel 4-Zone Induction Cooktop.

**Cool drawer** Fisher & Paykel CoolDrawer Multi-Temperature Drawer.





*Design file*

# NOT JUST A PRETTY FACADE

Beauty and functionality together create the perfect entertaining space in this Adelaide Hills home.

- ✚ “Perfect for day-to-day requirements, this kitchen also transitions to the ideal environment for both casual and formal entertaining,” says Kate. The total cost came to \$47,000 including appliances.
- ✚ Kate wanted the island bench to have a lightness in the space, so she designed it with a small rise off the floor, adding steel ‘shoes’ to the bottom of the legs. These were powder-coated in black to match other black detailing throughout the home.

- ✚ The integrated fridge is located inside this joinery, on the left-hand side. A pull-out pantry by Blum stands on the right.

- ✚ The colour palette was dictated by the exterior landscape which, in Kate’s words, features “sweeping green countryside, flowering gums and bald hills in summer”.



✦ “I wanted to house the rangehood but I didn’t want to interrupt the flow of the brick wall,” says Kate. “So we enclosed it in brickwork – it’s one of my favourite features.”

✦ Behind the wall is the utility area featuring a sink, dishwasher and coffee machine.

✦ “The drawers contain fittings from Blum, maximising storage and making the kitchen practical and comfortable to use,” says Kate.

## THE DETAILS

**Architect** Mountford Williamson.

**The cabinetry** Wormy Chestnut with a 30-per-cent polyurethane finish.

**White cupboards** Polyurethane in Haymes Paint Whitewash.

**Rear benchtop** Sleek Concrete engineered stone, from \$500/m<sup>2</sup> (installed), Caesarstone.

**Flooring** Laminam Oxide porcelain tile, Eco Tile Factory.

**Cupboard handles** Stained oak, custom-designed by Fabrikate, made by Spacecraft.

**Pendant lights** Custom Ceramic Potter Lights, from \$535 each, Anchor Ceramics.

**Stools** Hurdle steel and oak high stool, \$350, Dowel Jones.

## APPLIANCES

**Ovens** AEG 60cm pyrolytic oven, AEG 45cm ProCombi steam oven, AEG 14cm warming drawer.

**Cooktop** AEG 60cm OptiZone induction cooktop.

**Fridge** Panasonic 554L bottom-mount fridge.

**Dishwasher** Fisher & Paykel Integrated Double DishDrawer dishwasher.

## The brief

The owners of this kitchen are passionate cooks and entertainers, so when they built their new home in the Adelaide Hills, they wanted the kitchen to be both aesthetically beautiful and a brilliantly functioning performer. They loved the idea of equipping the kitchen with a bench that could be used for casual meals and gatherings, and they wanted to keep the utility area out of view to promote a relaxed, clutter-free environment. They called on Kate Harry from Fabrikate Creative Spaces to make their dream a reality.

## The solution

To establish the kitchen’s credentials as an entertaining space, Kate designed a stunning 2.5m-long timber island bench. “It acts as the fulcrum to the 3.5x4.8m space and a piece of furniture for casual dining,” says Kate.

To enhance the streamlined design, the fridge is integrated and set behind a large span of timber joinery and the rangehood is housed within a brick casing. The genius of the design is the hidden sink area, which is located around a recessed wall, so the mess of food preparation and used dishes can be concealed while entertaining. ▶

*Fabrikate Creative Spaces,  
Glenelg South, South Australia;  
[www.fabrikate.com.au](http://www.fabrikate.com.au).*





*Design file*

# IMAGE OVERHAUL

Colours can make or break a home – just ask the curator of this now airy inner-Melbourne kitchen.



✚ Measuring 2.2mx 1mx900mm, the island bench includes rounded doors at the ends and a cut-in for bar stools.



✚ Previously there were aluminium doors extending the full width of this room. Aaron narrowed the opening and extended the cabinetry the full length of the right-hand wall. “This made the kitchen longer and created more storage space for appliances,” he says. New timber bifold doors, painted white, complete the look.





✚ When Aaron designed the sleek integrated rangehood, he ensured the joinery encasing it matched the same simple profile as the cupboards below.

✚ The cost of this kitchen overhaul came to about \$55,000 including appliances, flooring and bifold doors leading to the terrace.

## The brief

Located in a city townhouse, this kitchen was originally industrial in style with stainless-steel benchtops, exposed-steel beams and jarrah floors. But when the property changed hands, the new owner decided the industrial look was not for her. She called on Aaron Wong, principal designer at Alexander Pollock, with a brief to remove all hints of its former style and give it a softer, more refined – but still clean-lined – look.

## The solution

Aaron replaced the jarrah flooring with light-stained European-oak boards, boxed in all the exposed steel beams and installed a vertical garden to cover a raw-concrete external wall. Responding to the homeowner's desire for a soft colour palette, he opted for the elegant combination of silver, grey and white. The hero of the 4x6.2m space is the oval island bench, inspired by a reference image sourced by the owner. ▶

Alexander Pollock,  
Hawthorn, Victoria; [www.alexanderpollock.com](http://www.alexanderpollock.com).

## THE DETAILS

**White cabinetry** Two-pack polyurethane in Dulux White On White with classic profile featuring 50mm borders.

**Island bench cabinetry** Solid oak in a custom mid-grey stain.

**Benchtops** 40mm-thick Carrara marble, Peraway Marble.

**Splashback** Polished Carrara Diamond Mosaic tiles, \$18/sheet (306x336mm), 12.4 sheets/m<sup>2</sup>, Designer Marble.

**Cupboard handles** Bronte handles in polished chrome, from \$26 each, Hepburn Hardware.

**Cupboard knobs** Bronte knobs in polished chrome, \$17 each, Hepburn Hardware.

**Tap** Nostalgia sink mixer in White and Chrome, \$625, Phoenix Tapware.

**Sink** Blanco Subline 350350UW double-bowl sink in White, \$919, Winning Appliances.

**Pendant lights** Suzanne Kasler Morris, \$2270 each, Laura Kincade.

**Stools** Claire bar stools, POA, Casa Mia, upholstered in fabric from Zepel Fabrics.

## THE APPLIANCES

**Oven** Smeg 90cm freestanding cooker.

**Fridge** Fisher & Paykel slide-in 900mm French door fridge.

**Dishwasher** Smeg DWAI6314X.

**Rangehood** Sirius SL906-L 850.

