



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.

THE DETAILS

Cabinetry Two-pack polyurethane in Taubmans Misty Lake.

Benchtops Statuario Nuvo, from \$1200/ m2 (installed), Caesarstone.

Splashback and floating shelf

Statuario Nuvo, from \$1200/m² (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.







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/m² (installed), Caesarstone. Flooring Laminam Oxide porcelain

tile, Eco Tile Factory. Cupboard handles Stained oak, custom-designed by Fabrikate, made by Spacecraft.

Text by Elizabeth Wilson

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

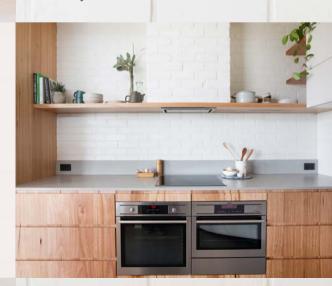
The owners of this kitchen are passionate cooks and entertainers, so when they built their new home in the Adelaide Hills, they wanted the kitchen to be both aesthetically beautiful and a brilliantly functioning performer. They loved the idea of equipping the kitchen with a bench that could be used for 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.



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.

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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.

Benchtops 40mm-thick Carrara marble, Peraway Marble. Splashback Polished Carrara Diamond Mosaic tiles, \$18/sheet (306x336mm), 12.4 sheets/m², 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.

\$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.

