



Australian House And Garden May, 2018

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H&G ADVICE

RECIPES FOR SUCCESS

Clever layouts and fresh palettes produce fab results as three kitchens go from stale to stunning, writes *Elizabeth Wilson*.

RENO 1
BLUES
FEST



BEFORE

Located on the ground floor of a two-storey 1970s townhouse in Melbourne, this tiny kitchen was in the doldrums. Measuring just 3.7x2.4m, it had been updated only eight years earlier but the colour choices – grey laminate cabinetry with brown splashback and floor tiles (above) – made it feel even smaller and darker than it was. The homeowner turned to interior designer Camilla Molders, seeking a fresh new look to lighten and brighten the kitchen, plus more storage and a better flow between the kitchen and living spaces.

THE DETAILS *Cabinetry* Two-pack polyurethane cabinetry with Shaker profile, painted Dulux Deck Crew (blue) and Dulux Lexicon (white), and timber open shelves, CabinetSmith. *Benchtop* Caesarstone surface in Raw Concrete, from \$500/m² (installed). *Splashback tiles* TTS029 ceramic tiles in Satin White (135x400mm), \$110/m², Tiento Tiles. *Floor tiles* Entic Designs CLA_UN_18 encaustic tiles in custom colourway (200x200mm), \$280/m², Ajar. *Sink* 'Lago' one-and-one-third bowl inset sink, \$972, Abey. *Tap* A50.08.PL mixer in Brushed Chrome with porcelain handle, \$993, Astra Walker. **APPLIANCES** *Dishwasher* Existing 45cm dishwasher, Bosch Home Appliances. *Oven* 60cm pyrolytic oven, Neff. *Cooktop* 60cm four-burner gas cooktop, Bosch Home Appliances. *Rangehood* GFI 632 60cm undermount hood, Scholtès. *Camilla Molders Design, Middle Park, Victoria; (03) 9699 6641 or camillamolders.com.au*

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AFTER

Camilla used a lively combination of white and blue to replace the grey and brown. "It's a small space and lighter colours visually open up the room," says Camilla. The choice of blue echoes splashes of colour in the adjacent living space. "Blue was the best colour to connect the kitchen with the rest of the house. An all-white scheme in this space would have been bland." Lower cabinets are painted Dulux

Deck Crew and teamed with crisp white subway tiles on the splashback, Caesarstone Raw Concrete benchtops and floor tiles in soft grey, blue and white. "It's a classic design, but the colour makes it fresh," says Camilla. The white overhead cabinets, along with the splashback tiles, act as reflectors, bouncing natural light around. Open shelving in chocolate-stained solid timber adds visual interest and depth, and also ties in with floorboards nearby. ▶

'THIS IS A WARM BLUE WITH RED UNDERTONES; COMBINED WITH FRESH WHITE, IT DOESN'T OVERPOWER THE OVERALL DESIGN.' *Camilla Molders, interior designer*



Photography by Martina Gemmola.

PROJECT COSTS

- Cabinetry by CabinetSmith \$20,000
- Labour (removing old kitchen, flooring, tiling, plumbing, etc) \$10,000
- Floor tiles \$3500
- Splashback tiles \$700
- Tap \$993
- Appliances \$5000
- TOTAL COST: ABOUT \$40,000**



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H&G ADVICE

RENO 2
INSIDER
GOLD



BEFORE

When interiors buff and blogger Jen Bishop (theinteriorsaddict.com) moved into her 1960s red-brick house in Sydney's north last year, she knew the original kitchen and its beige cupboards (pictured left) had to go. "There was wasted space behind a nib wall, a poky pantry and nowhere to fit the fridge," says Jen, who envisioned a spacious room with a modern, light feel. "I've always been keen on a Shaker-style kitchen, but I wanted to put my own stamp on it."



Styling by Yael Grinham. Photography by John Paul Urizar.

THE DETAILS *White cabinetry* Essential 'Catherine' doors in 18mm water-resistant MDF with polyurethane satin finish in White, Freedom Kitchens. *Benchtop and splashback* Caesarstone in Noble Grey, from \$1100/m². *Drawer handles* 'Cornet' brass handles with gloss lacquer finish (224mm long), \$27 each, Kethy. *Panelled joinery* Easycraft 'EasyVJ' wall panels in moisture-resistant MDF, from \$30/panel (900x1200x9mm), Bunnings, painted in Haymes Paint Chinchilla Fur. *Sink* 'Decorium' single-bowl sink with drainer in Light Gold, \$650, Bunnings. *Tap* 'Round' mixer in Tiger Bronze, \$524, Meir. *Stools* 'Marco' stools, \$59 each, Freedom. *Flooring* 'Impressive' Ultra HDF laminate in Classic Oak Beige, \$62/m², Quick-Step Floor Designers. **APPLIANCES** *Dishwasher* Integrated dishwasher, Ilve. *Oven* 90cm electric oven, Ilve. *Cooktop* 90cm induction cooktop, Ilve. *Rangehood* Ilve. *Fridge* Fisher & Paykel.



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AFTER

With planning help from a friend, interior designer James Treble, Jen reconfigured and enlarged the kitchen by eliminating the nib wall and closing off the rear door. This allowed for extra cabinetry and created room for the fridge. For the Shaker-style cabinet door fronts, Jen turned to Freedom Kitchens' flat-pack Essential range. "Using the flat-pack option was an opportunity to make savings, allowing me to have other

things I dreamt of, such as the Caesarstone," she says. To achieve a light and airy feel, Jen chose cabinetry in white, topped with a marble-look benchtop in a soft grey shade (Caesarstone Noble Grey) that's also used on the splashback. She transformed the rear wall by covering it with decorative V-groove panelling, reprised on the front of the breakfast bench. And for a bit of sparkle, Jen added brass cupboard handles and a gold-toned sink and tapware. ▶

PROJECT COSTS

Cabinetry by Freedom Kitchens

About \$11,000

Labour (demolition, carpentry, electricals etc)
\$15,000

Benchtop, splashback and stonemasonry \$13,000

Tap and sink \$1174

Appliances \$10,000

Floor and installation, panelling, door and handles
About \$5000

TOTAL: ABOUT \$55,000

'I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A FAN OF GOLD ACCENTS AND USE THEM EVERYWHERE. I LIKE THE ELEGANT AND CLASSIC LOOK THEY GIVE. PLUS, THEY FEEL A BIT LUXURIOUS.' *Jen Bishop, owner*





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H&G ADVICE



RENO 3
FRESH
TAKE

BEFORE

When Linda Brander bought a 1950s home on Sydney's northern beaches, the kitchen (left) was virtually derelict. Linda, a keen cook, wanted an efficient, open-plan layout to allow for easy movement and maximum storage. Aesthetically, it had to echo the broader beach-house theme of her home in a palette of white, blue and timber.

AFTER

Linda gave Cantilever a brief for cabinetry with "a furniture feel, a pop of colour and the opportunity to display objects". Her starting point was a Smeg FAB28 fridge in pastel blue, a tone reproduced in some of the drawer and cabinet fronts. While the fridge proudly displays its retro look, other appliances – including a second, integrated refrigerator and an induction cooktop in white – are subtly concealed, almost hidden, within this 2.5x3.3m space. **H&G**

PROJECT COSTS

Cabinetry \$32,969
Island benchtop, splashback \$4228
Labour (carpentry, painting, plumbing and electrical) \$7750
Tap \$2000
Appliances \$22,408
TOTAL: \$69,355



Photograph by Chris Warnes.

'TO ME, THE COMBINATION OF TIMBER, WHITE AND PASTEL BLUE IS THE QUINTESSENTIAL WEATHERBOARD BEACH-HOUSE PALETTE.' *Linda Brander, owner*

THE DETAILS *Cabinetry* Custom 'K3' kitchen system in laminate on ply with cut-out handles and hoop-pine ply open shelving, Cantilever. *Benchtops and splashback* Silestone surface in Ariel, POA, Cosentino Australia. *Flooring* Original cypress pine floorboards, refinished in Stain & Varnish in Coco Black, \$56/L, Cabot's. *Sink* LD116 double sink, \$1590, Smeg. *Tap* Karbon tap (discontinued), Kohler. *Stools* 'Elm' stools, \$275 each, Beachwood Designs. **APPLIANCES** *Fridges* FAB28 fridge in Pastel Blue, \$2990, and SRI300BM fully integrated fridge, \$3290, Smeg. *Ovens* SFPA6925B 'Victoria' electric oven, \$3290, and SFA4920B 'Victoria Speed' microwave/convection oven in White, \$3490, Smeg. *Cooktop* SAI90MW 'SmartSense Plus' 90cm induction cooktop in White, \$4390, Smeg. *Dishwasher* DWAFI6DI5T dishwasher, \$2990, Smeg. *Toaster* Two-slice toaster in Pale Blue, \$179, Smeg. *For Where to Buy, see page 196.*