



Daily Telegraph  
Saturday 17/11/2018

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LIVE AUCTIONS AND MORE ON AUSTRALIA'S HOME OF REAL ESTATE. **SATURDAYS FROM 8.30AM.**



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→ Phil says that we've been inspired a lot by the beautiful kitchens being created on shows such as *The Block*, in magazines and Pinterest.

"There's a lot of platforms for ideas and inspiration, and I think that the idea of a butler's pantry is now viewed less as a luxury for elite homes and more of a kitchen design that everyone can aspire to if they have the space for it," Phil says. "It definitely complements the modern lifestyle and the way we like to live and entertain."

If you're lucky enough to have the space to fit a butler's pantry, the basic elements to include are sufficient benchtop space for food preparation, storage areas for food items, and a well-organised space for small appliances such as the toaster, microwave and coffee machine. If you have room it's also handy to have an extra dishwasher and sink, where all the mess can all be hidden away from the main kitchen. Be sure to include power-points to make the whole space run smoothly.

More: [freedomkitchens.com.au](http://freedomkitchens.com.au)

### Outside chance

Australians' love of entertaining outdoors is a key reason the alfresco room is so sought after in new builds. It's not just a place where family and friends can take in the sunshine and fresh air, but somewhere to entertain groups of people, all the while keeping the house clean.

IXL Home marketing manager, Malcolm Russell, says the outdoor kitchen trend is booming.

"Outdoor rooms and alfresco areas continue to be one of the biggest trends in Australia," Malcolm says. "In this country, we're blessed with great weather almost all year around and we also love to entertain outdoors, so it's only natural that we want to start bringing as many of the luxuries from inside the home to our outdoor space."

To set up an outdoor kitchen, first and foremost, you need some sort of cooking facility, whether it's a pizza oven, a classic barbecue or even a proper kitchen with oven and sink.

When it comes to seating, you can experiment with different options to suit your entertaining style. Malcolm says lounges would be great for cocktail hour or you could opt for an extendible dining table for family gatherings.

"Some sort of cover, whether it's a roof, or canopy is also essential for enjoying the space in all weather conditions," he says.

For added luxury, Phil suggests installing a bar fridge, "so the chef is never too far from a cold beer or glass of wine".

No matter the set-up, the main difference

between indoor and outdoor kitchens is the durability of materials and products used.

With anything outdoors, especially anything that requires electricity, it is crucial to have adequate cover to avoid damage from the elements or safety risks. If it's just a barbecue, a simple tailor-made cover will protect it from wind and rain. However, a more complete outdoor kitchen will need a fixed roof or pergola.

He says kitchens are often the key room

that buyers consider when purchasing a home and an outdoor kitchen is a great way to build upon this important selling point.

"Combining a kitchen with an inviting alfresco entertaining area gives you an additional place to entertain and, if the indoor kitchen is on the small side, the outdoor kitchen is another well-equipped space to prepare and cook meals," he says.

Malcolm says we're going to continue to see the growth of the outdoor kitchen and alfresco entertaining trend with more elaborate outdoor kitchens and other luxury features, such as a lounge areas with home theatre options. Or, you could go the traditional route and install a pool.

More: [ixlappliances.com.au](http://ixlappliances.com.au)

Justine Wilson, director and principal stylist at Vault Interiors, says there's been a significant rise in outdoor rooms in the past 12 months.

"The trend is evolving and with Australia's lovely weather it would be crazy not to make use of your outdoor areas," she says.

Here are Justine's top tips for creating an outdoor kitchen and living area.

**1 Outdoor entertaining features** Outdoor kitchens with wine fridges and sinks feel top end and will add value if you sell your home.

**2 Opt for adaptable furnishings** Stacking chairs and a collapsible table are great as they can be easily removed and allow flexibility to change up the space so you can take it from dining area to party venue.

**3 Add greenery** In our climate, hardy low-maintenance plants, such as succulents, agaves or yuccas are ideal. It's all about placement and grouping.

**4 Lighting** Party lights will always make a space look pretty and it doesn't have to break the bank.

**5 Incorporate accessories** Select colour tones that are showcased in the interior of your home so there is flow and connection between inside and out.

More: [vaultinteriors.com.au](http://vaultinteriors.com.au)





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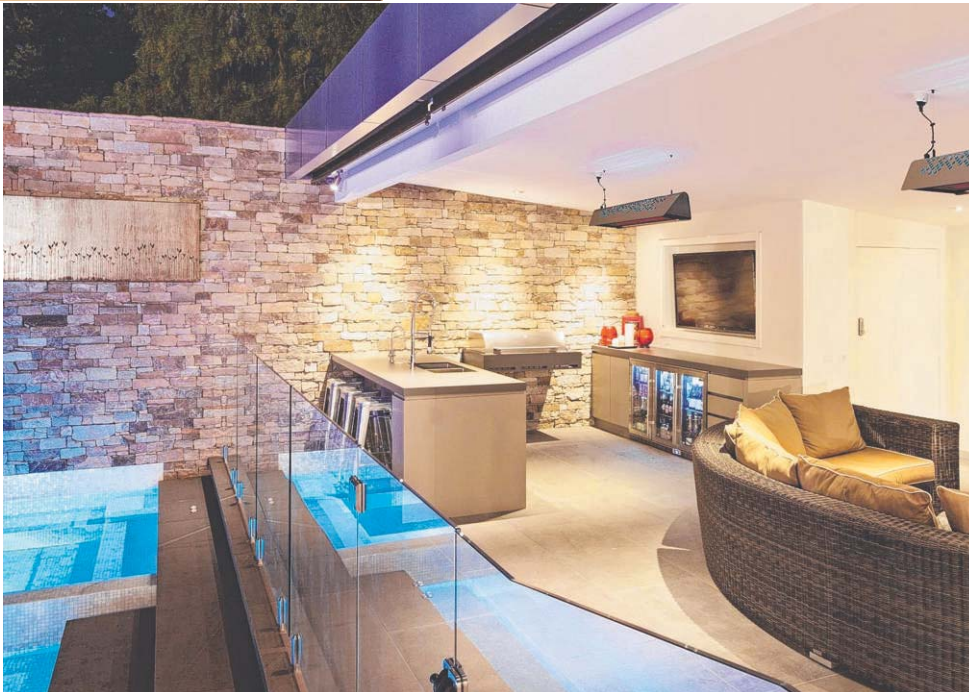
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This outdoor kitchen from IXL even has a rangehood to manage steam and smoke.

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**These butler's pantries (above and left) from Freedom Kitchens extend your working area without extending the visible mess. A well-planned pantry should include plenty of open and closed storage as well as good lighting, bench space and a sink. If funds allow, a microwave and dishwasher are welcome additions.**





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