

KITCHEN *Special*

Innovative ideas and clever solutions define these standout kitchens.



A monochromatic colour scheme and loads of eye-pleasing textural finishes have been brought together with magical results in this Brisbane kitchen, recently completed by Sydney interior designer Alexandra Ponting. For more on this beauty – and plenty of inspiration for all budgets – turn the page.

PRODUCED BY *Elizabeth Wilson*

Textural triumph SHADES OF PALE

A symphony of textures plays the lead role in this glorious white-on-white kitchen.

✦ MDF cabinetry is routed with a vertical V-groove detail, a nod to the home's original weatherboards. "It was important that this new kitchen spoke to its surroundings," says Alexandra. The joinery is complemented by simple, streamlined pull handles.

The brief

Located at the rear of a gracious 1930s weatherboard home in Brisbane, this kitchen hadn't been updated since the 1970s. The owners wanted to transform it into a modern, airy living space where their adult children, grandkids and friends could congregate and enjoy the connection to the rear deck, garden and pool. They called on Sydney interior designer Alexandra Ponting from AP Design House to come up with a layout that could accommodate large crowds without compromising on food prep and cooking space. Stylistically, they wanted a scheme that was contemporary yet mindful of the home's heritage.

The solution

Alexandra devised a monochromatic palette of off-white and soft greys that is simultaneously classic and contemporary. While tonally restrained, it's high on visual interest, thanks to the interplay of V-groove joinery, textured porcelain tiles and white concrete benchtops. The highlight of the space is the use of a textured-porcelain subway tile for the rear wall/splashback and the base of the 3000x1000x940mm island bench. The V-groove joinery, meanwhile, references the home's Queensland roots. ▶
AP Design House, Woollahra, NSW; (02) 9362 5068 or apdesignhouse.com.au.

✦ The rangehood has been encased in joinery and then tiled so it 'disappears' into the tiled splashback wall. "A contrasting rangehood would have interrupted the flow of the room," says Alexandra. "This custom rangehood is still a feature but it is understated and doesn't compete with other elements."

✦ The brick-like porcelain tiles are handmade and no two are the same. This produces slightly irregular grout lines, a deliberate design inclusion. "I've combined the monochromatic palette with a mix of uneven lines versus perfectly straight ones, and smooth surfaces versus rough surfaces," says Alexandra.

This all-white scheme works because of the clever mix of textures.

Photograph by Felix Forest.



✦ An integrated Liebherr side-by-side fridge/freezer and pantry are housed in this wall of tall joinery.

✦ The large island bench accommodates a crowd without impinging on prep space. "This L-shaped design with long galley and larger-than-normal island allows for seamless flow," says Alexandra.

THE DETAILS

Tall cabinetry MDF routed with vertical V-groove detail, painted Porter's Paints Lime Wash in Milk.

Benchtops Custom concrete in Pure White, poured off-site, Mixed Element.

Splashback, rangehood cladding and island bench Climatica 'Muro Vecchio' handmade porcelain tiles in Blanco (gloss), Ace Stone+Tiles.

Tap Armando Vicario 'Tink' side-lever kitchen mixer in White, \$770, Abey.

Sink Schock 'Typos' 1¾ bowl in Alpina finish, \$858, Abey.

Pendant light 'Mouette Asymmetric' pendant light, Artemide.

Kitchen stools 'Butter' bar stools, \$450 each, DesignByThem.

Flooring Reclaimed wide-gauge timber floorboards, stained chestnut brown.

THE APPLIANCES

Stove 90cm freestanding gas cooker in White, Smeg.

Rangehood Smeg, with custom tile cladding.

Fridge/freezer Integrated Liebherr fridge/freezer. ▶

'It's minimalistic at first glance, but when you're in the space you realise how much warmth and interest has been created through the use of the considered and diverse materials.'

Alexandra Ponting

PALETTE PLEASERS

A medley of wonderful whites



Photograph by Felix Forest. Artwork by Robert Malherbe. For Where to Buy, see page 190.