



A dynamic space

A clever design packed with features, this apartment kitchen works perfectly with the adjoining living spaces

Having lived with their dark, claustrophobic kitchen for too long, the owners were keen to inject some style and new life into their apartment. The old kitchen was enclosed by four walls, which made it very cramped and dysfunctional — the complete opposite to their dream European-inspired space.

Working closely with kitchen designer Erika Forster of Kitcheners Kitchens, the owners now have a stunning new kitchen in which they live and entertain on a grand scale. Kitcheners Kitchens knew that one of the challenges would be incorporating the European styling that the owners were so keen on, but implementing that within a limited space. The starting point for the design was a suspended benchtop, which the designer quickly realised would give the kitchen a strong visual presence and integrate it with the space next door.

The island bench has been designed to sit at a lower height and has been offset against the rest of the kitchen. Visually, this blurs the more traditional straight-line approach and allows the kitchen to more easily merge with the dining area. Suspending the benchtop creates the illusion of more space and provides a handy spot for the owners to sit for a casual meal.

In choosing the Queensland blackwood veneer to sit against the slick white of the other cabinets and benchtop, Kitcheners Kitchens has skilfully created a warm tone that balances the cool whites. To make the room appear wider, the veneer has been run in a horizontal pattern, rather than vertical.

The design also takes into consideration all the individual needs of the household. “The owners do a lot of entertaining,” explains Erika.

“So the lowered veneer cabinet was designed to specifically house their platters.”

A couple of other clever design tricks make this space function beautifully. Vitrified porcelain tiles, laid in a brick pattern, are an acknowledgement of the traditional architecture within the rest of the apartment while the single-bowl Abey sink was rotated 90 degrees before installation to fit the narrow space perfectly.

Fact file

The kitchen was designed and built by **KITCHENERS KITCHENS** Showrooms in Sydney and Melbourne **Phone** 1800 826 144 **Email** design@kitcheners.com.au **Website** www.kitcheners.com.au

Doors and panels Queensland blackwood veneer and Laminex Polar White **Internal hardware** Blum Tandem white soft-close drawers with side curtains **Handles** Drawers with rectangular stainless steel; handle-free doors with Blum Tip-on touch catch with spring-free hinges **Benchtop** 20mm CaesarStone in White **Splashback** 45mm x 140mm vitrified porcelain tiles **Kickboards** 150mm matching kicks **Floor** Oak floating floor **Walls** Paint in Eggshell **Lighting** Halogen downlights with existing pendant **Appliances** include a 600mm Smeg SCA310X oven, 600mm Smeg SE26311D cooktop, 800mm Omega 3077/3 slide-out rangehood with stainless-steel fascia, 600mm Asko 125 dishwasher, Kelvinator refrigerator, Abey sink and stylised mixer tap



CLEVER USE OF NEGATIVE SPACE UNDER THE BENCHTOP ALLOWS LIGHT AND AIR TO FLOW INTO THE KITCHEN AND REMOVES ANY NATURAL BORDERS THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE EXIST.