



KITCHEN:

DARK MAGIC

FORM MEETS FUNCTION IN A STUNNING
KITCHEN THAT SHOWCASES COOL
AND CLEVER DESIGN AT ITS BEST

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TAKING
A CHANCE

*Architect John Liu
and interior designer
Aldona Pajdak took
a well-calculated risk with
the monochrome palette
of this family kitchen in
Melbourne. Here's how
they did it. >*

LIGHTING

A row of three smoked-glass Flos 'Ktribe' glass pendants illuminate the island. "These were chosen because they are simple in design and don't distract from the feature skylights above," says architect John Liu. "They also complement the larger pendants above the dining table."

GREAT IDEA

While the pre-makeover kitchen was poky and dim, the new room basks in natural light, thanks to a trio of tapered feature skylights situated directly above the island bench.

GREAT IDEA

Amping up the island's star-rating further is the incorporation of a hydronic radiator under-bench. "It keeps the bench - and cups of tea! - warm in winter," explains John.

ISLAND

The island extends into a dining zone, a triumph of family-friendly design. "It eliminates the need to introduce more furniture and space for a casual meals area," says John, of the feature which is topped in Caesarstone Organic White. "It also makes the space look cleaner and more open." The extensive island is home to a bin cupboard, twin stainless-steel Barazza 'Cubo' sinks from Abey, as well as a stylish 'Gessi' Oxygene hi-tech sink mixer from Rogerseller and a 'Miniboil' Zip Hydrotap. It also has an integrated dishwasher and drawer stack.

THE BRIEF was clear: to create a light and open-plan kitchen for a young Melbourne family without sacrificing functionality and storage. Fortunately for the homeowners, architect John Liu of Inbetween Architecture and interior designer Aldona Pajdak were up for the challenge. The result is a luminous space - built by MCL Constructions as part of a whole home renovation - that looks as fabulous as it is practical. "The kitchen really is the centre of the house and is well designed," says the homeowner. "It's functional and aesthetically pleasing at the same time." The new zone's wow-factor comes courtesy of a blend of dark and light finishes - starring George Fethers & Co veneer cabinetry in Nero, and Caesarstone in both Raven and Organic White - a sculptural rangehood, great natural light aided by skylights and an island bench with integrated dining table. "I love the table bench," says the homeowner. "It's easy to clean and everything we need is within arm's reach. It also allows me to be part of the family conversation while I'm working in the kitchen."

"WE THOUGHT THE *contrasting* COLOUR PALETTE OF BLACK AND WHITE WOULD WORK WELL HERE WITH THE *abundance* OF NATURAL LIGHT" - JOHN LIU, ARCHITECT

BUTLER'S PANTRY

There's no such thing as too much storage in a kitchen, and this well thought out zone certainly delivers. The sizeable butler's pantry (below) provides the ultimate in hidden storage, as well as a broom cupboard and a 'dumb waiter' lift from the downstairs garage for unloading groceries. Banks of shelving and open-fronted drawers allow contents to be viewed and accessed easily.



RANGEHOODS

A show-stopping pair of Qasair circular 'Albany' rangehoods from the Argyle collection (above) are a contemporary architectural statement as much as a practical necessity. "We selected these as a feature, and for their functionality," says John. >

GREAT IDEA
Combine textures and finishes for balance. "The black cabinetry provides depth and the timber brings in warmth and ties the whole space together," explains architect John Liu.

GREAT IDEA
The appliance cupboard, used to house the coffee-making equipment, is concealed by a set of concertina doors that don't swing out too far, obstructing the space.

GREAT IDEA
Some of the deep drawers in the kitchen have 'secret' ones inside to minimise the appearance of break lines in the cabinetry, creating a sleeker look.

DINING ZONE
The elegant 'Hunter' blackbutt dining table paired with leather 'Maggie' chairs, all from Jardan, introduce a warm note to the dark scheme in the open-plan space. The golden tones also tie in with the lovely tallowwood flooring, and are a nod to the In-Teria 'Curvy' timber handles on the cabinetry.

"WE WANTED THE KITCHEN TO FEEL *elegant* AND SOPHISTICATED, YET BE *cozy* AND COMFORTABLE"
~ JOHN LIU, ARCHITECT



*EXCLUDES LABOUR AND BUILDING COSTS. ALL PRICES ARE APPROXIMATE AND WILL VARY

