



Rather than completely disrespecting the history of the mid-century home by renovating it beyond recognition of its true identity, Austin Design Associates worked with Blue Box Cabinet Makers to cleverly and stylistically renew the 1960s aesthetic that is beautifully displayed in this neatly designed kitchen.

The original house featured some beautiful timber cabinetry that was followed through in the selection of stained walnut veneer for one half of the kitchen. Doors and drawer faces are handleless, ensuring the sleek and streamlined 1960s look of the room. A contrasting white Corian countertop marries the timber joinery with a wall of tall elements constructed from white 2pac in a satin finish. Here live all the large, stainless steel appliances, with smaller ones able to be hidden away behind a roller door.

In a space with so many unique features, the cantilevering bench is perhaps the most special. Protruding out and squared off at the end with a timber panel, the bench defines the kitchen and provides a lovely little spot to sit atop the stylish stools and chat to the home chef whipping up dinner on the seamless induction cook top. An adjacent dining table is surrounded by typically 1960s style seating and is lit from above with a floating light fitting like that above the breakfast bar.

Flanking the window above the sink are two panels of olive green mosaic tiles that act as a splash back and really bring the room to life with a subtle burst of colour. Further life is brought to the already charming kitchen

through the owners' love of mid-century design, reflected in the display of vintage artwork and nick.

A challenge arose when it came to the flooring, as the original parquetry could not be matched. What was chosen was an Amtico vinyl floor covering in a soft green tone that bounces off the splash backs and mimics the pattern of adjacent parquetry but in a larger scale.

Each element of the kitchen plays a significant roll in the composition of a room flooded with balance and proportion, breathing new life into a classic design era. The kitchen has a lovely individuality that reflects the personalities of the owners. Austin Design Associates have shone in this project, made particularly enjoyable by the adventurous clients keen for a kitchen that was a little different.

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Decorative Design

The renovation of a mid-century home in Melbourne's prestigious suburb of Beaumaris saw the design and construction of a contemporary kitchen that plays up to the open living areas it so effortlessly graces with beauty.





It is commonplace that modern kitchens are plain, their designers playing it safe with a space that is simple and unassuming. Austin Design Associates however have a creative vision, whose communication translates into designs that are warm, unique and enduring.

Their clean but artistic aesthetic and ability to revolutionize their clients' dreams is reflected to magnificence in this Beaumaris kitchen where they have turned function into art, conveying the attention to detail the client desired.

What immediately strikes you about the space is the island bench and overhead canopy that in fact form the bulk of the kitchen. Having the cook top as a feature of the central island is common in European kitchen but not so much in Australia. This presented an opportunity for the space to be all the more left of centre. Putting the cook top and sink in the island meant that the rest of the kitchen is free for tall elements like the pantry, appliance cupboard, wall ovens and the fridge. It also allows for the cook to operate in the kitchen and entertain simultaneously.

The island is grounded by rich timber veneer, separated from the chunky white counter top by a black glass self at the front that provides an unexpected place to display nick nacks. Standing to attention at the end of the island are three upholstered stools with shiny chrome legs that reflect the light from the outside terrace, giving the room extra depth.

Floating above the bench is a sleek stainless steel canopy that integrates the range hood above the induction cook top. This adds an almost industrial element to the space, makes it cosy and is certainly unusual.

The clean space leaves one wondering where the fridge is, or where all the unavoidable mess goes? It is all integrated and tucked away in the adjacent walls of white cabinets.

In front of the kitchen sits a sleek chocolate dining table whose chrome legs intertwine with those of the white dining chairs. Over the table float two soft bubbles, whose dainty, fairy-floss like surface radiates the light they shine down to the table.

The space is completed by a celestial window that runs its length, and Aboriginal wall art that ties in with interesting bits and pieces spread throughout.

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Good to be Green

In a particularly special ensuite created by talented design company Austin Design Associates, boldness comes to life with a most feature.



The owners of the house were very open to the idea's Austin Design Associates presented and were keen on the use of colour – music to a designer's ears.

The bright green feature wall anchors the space and spreads the entirety of the walk-in shower wall. The colour was selected for its complimentary nature to the upholstery fabric of the bed head in the abutting master bedroom.

The ensuite bathroom is quite small and the jolt of colour at the end actually makes the space look larger. What makes the feature wall truly distinct is the colour backed glass, which gives a glossy and an atypically reflective surface that adds tangible dimension to an already multifaceted room.

Recessed shelving to the white, tiled wall that runs perpendicular to the deep lime green feature keeps the surface of the room fluid and provides convenient set-down space for soaps and shampoos.

On the other side of a ghostly glass wall whose presence is all but invisible sits a sleek white vanity with geometric sinks and sharp, defined surfaces that materialize the desired straight-edge aesthetic of the room.

Above a tiled splash back and shelf protrude two black boxes which frame the twin vanity mirrors. The edges of the mirrors are smoothed to a curve, giving that small but necessary rounded contrast to the space.

Large charcoal coloured tiles warm the bathroom, the monochromatic palette they create with the white walls and vanity a graceful stage for the lime green luminary that, after all, the room is all about.

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Sheer Class

A uniquely large ensuite becomes part of the modern refurbishment of a mid-century classic, forming an opulent space for two.

The clients wanted a large, hotel-style ensuite where they could relax and not feel confined by the small space often afforded master suite bathrooms. What was achieved is an open and easy flowing space, with room to move from the shower to the bath to the basin in uninterrupted luxury. Sliding glass doors even open the room up further to an outdoor terrace.

Heavenly bright white walls and glass features are grounded by quality porcelain tiles to the floor and feature wall. These look very much like bluestone, which was used extensively for the landscaping outside. They require very little maintenance, unlike real stone, and give the room a warmth and sexiness.

Set against the dark grey feature wall is an oversized white free-standing bath. This was the main feature desired by the clients, and one, which incited the overall size of the space. The graceful white form is backed by a chrome towel rack and a small brushed chrome shelf for soaps and salts. Imbedded above in the white ceiling are three down lights that shine askew towards the grey wall for sensual mood lighting when bathing. Cantilevering from a white tiled wall to the other end of the room is a sleek vanity with a hefty Caesarstone bench top. Floating the structure this way

above the bathroom floor increases the overall visual dimension of the room and creates a signature modern look. Below the bench top are four drawers, handless to achieve the seamless look desired. The wide mirror is illuminated by two light fittings on either side and tricky beauty regimes are made easy by a magnifying mirror.

Beside the vanity, opaque glass conceals the toilet. This gives the area privacy and allows for multiple people to use the room at once. The twin showers are similarly located behind floor to ceiling glass, an element that further accentuates the overall space in what is a truly luxurious bathroom, unmatched in its quality design and relaxing ambience.

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Clever Space

The kitchen is the common hub of the family home, the design of this space is one that facilitates not only function but also relaxed interaction with the family.

Situated in the original part of a heritage listed 1956 mid-century house, the kitchen was relocated to its current position so that the bay views could be enjoyed by the whole family.

The premier feature of the kitchen is the large island bench that centers the room. Its unique quality is found in the American Oak table top to one end, flowing on seamlessly from Stone Italiana Japiur Vanilla in a very natural finish. Custom designed stainless steel legs sit at a 45 degree angle, adding an extra dimension to the island. The table top to one end, lit from above by an elegant light fitting, is a clever solution to a small space. Here a relatively generous dining area is created where a table and chairs would not fit, forming a gathering point for family and friends to enjoy the views.

The home chef of the family wanted to enjoy the lovely bay views available while they completed the arduous task of washing the dishes. This request was delivered by designing the kitchen sink to go in the island bench that faces out the large window that brightens the room.

Against the wall is a generous cooking area with gas hob stove, above which is an unassuming range hood that is integrated into what appears like an element of the wall. Running parallel to the sleek, stainless steel bench top is a shelf of the same material, framing the splash back and forming a place for cook books and the like.

The popular shutter door feature reappearing in many kitchens is taken to another level with an oversized version concealing small, frequently used appliances. Beside this, the large glass door screen a crockery cupboard, their transparent nature aiding the illusion of extra space. Hidden around the corner are two large appliance cupboards and the fridge. Concealing these elements mean that when the family dine in the room that don't feel like they're really in the kitchen.

Heavenly white walls and cabinetry are brought to earth by rich, multi-toned timber floors that communicate the home's history beneath its new identity.

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Federation Charm

The charm of the old federation mansion in which is apartment is located is carried into its renovation, with a kitchen that is sympathetic to the building's heritage.





The conversion of the mansion into apartments took place in the 1980s. The Beech veneer and black granite kitchen that still existed when the clients purchased the apartment was tired and far from functional, built in a 'U' shape which made getting in and out difficult.

Initially, Austin Design Associates visited to consult on a couple of furniture items. The owners were so impressed by their vision for the space that Austin Design Associates was employed to renovate the whole apartment.

When it came to the kitchen, it was decided that an island bench would allow the space to flow more freely, also creating a focal point for entertaining friends. Three bar stools sit below the Calcutta marble bench, unobtrusively proving a casual dining area that is framed by traditional skirting boards running around the island.

The bright white kitchen that stretches behind strikes a perfect balance between old and new. Beveled doors to overhead cupboards remain handless, providing an element of sleekness that still reflects the decorative sensibility of the home's era. Austin custom designed the range hood to suit the style of the kitchen and fully integrated the fridge given that the kitchen was open to the living area. Grey streaks of the marble dance playfully behind the sink and cook top, between which display shelving sits above a roller door that hides small appliances.

Timber floors, a dining table rich with historical integrity and well placed personal items come together to create a warm and inviting room that the clients just love to cook and entertain in.

It was a challenge working on a first floor apartment accessible only by stairs, but with the help of a great builder with particular experience renovating apartments – Open Plan Homes – the project was a complete success.

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