



ENGLISH ROSE

A provincial take on modern kitchen design creates a space where warmth and personality shine

1

When a British expat made Australia her home, she renovated a Federation-style kitchen so it reflected her new life Down Under but with a nod to ol' Blighty, too. Interior designer Fiona Austin set the scene by creating a spacious modern layout with a coffered ceiling to define the space, then finished cabinetry with square timber panels for a provincial twist. The layout is kept free flowing thanks to masses of in-theme storage.

1 Freestanding appeal

Tap into the warmth of country style with an oversized island bench, kitted out with storage. This island is ready for anything, with lots of bench space for baking (or chewing the fat) and oodles of storage. Fiona inserted a box shelf in the island's end, filled with rustic cane baskets true to style to take care of all the detritus that usually finds its way to the benchtop.



2 Provincial poise

An Aga stove is an investment piece that says 'country' like no other. Match it with French-country themed accessories and well-disguised modern appliances (here, the fridge and dishwasher are cleverly disguised inside cabinetry) to create a space that's high on charm.

3 Pocket rocket

Create an easily hidden breakfast zone with a multi-purpose appliance cupboard. This little nook is concealed by pocket-joint doors that slide back into a recess, allowing for total access. Home to the microwave, breadbin and tea essentials, it's all set up and ready to go. Zone with storage, keeping coffee cups and spreads handy, to make it super user friendly.

4 Country fix

Splash out on a statement piece! Tapware can be a real scene stealer, so ensure it's worthy of the attention. This tap adds sculptural appeal to the kitchen and complements the Belfast sink for an immediate impression of provincial charm – find the sink and a similar tap at Melbourne's Manorhouse.



DESIGN FILE

DESIGNER: Austin Design Associates, call (03) 9699 4522 or visit www.austindesign.com.au; Schulberg Demkiw Architects, call (03) 9697 0700. **CABINETS:** Dulux Jodhpurs 2-pac polyurethane in Satin finish. **SPLASHBACK:** Johnson tiles in Cream. **BENCHTOP:** Stone Italiana reconstituted stone in Crystal Cream. **FLOORING:** Western Australian Kauri floorboards. **APPLIANCES:** Aga stove, cooktop and oven; Qasair concealed rangehood, Miele dishwasher. **EXPECT TO PAY:** Around \$40,000; excludes Aga.