

THE WHITE STUFF

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THIS LIGHT AND SPACIOUS ENTERTAINER'S DELIGHT WAS ONCE A BOXY, CLOSED-IN KITCHEN

WORDS & STYLING Ruth Welsby PHOTOGRAPHY Marcel Aucaer

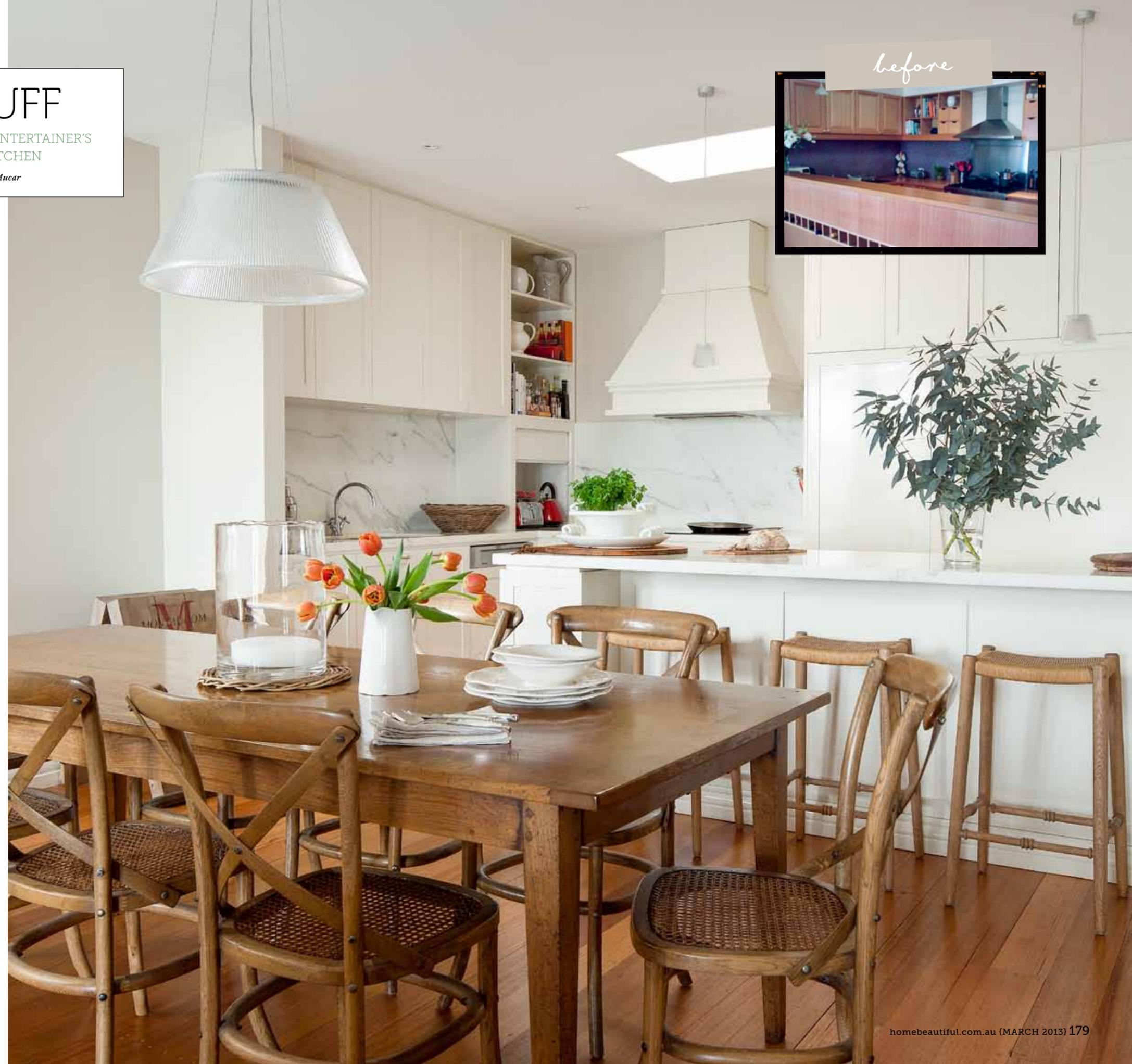
NOW BRIGHT AND beautiful, Wendy and Mick's kitchen in their Melbourne apartment is worlds away from its previous incarnation. The original 'U'-shaped layout was anything but user-friendly, and the beech cupboards and purple mosaic splashback screamed 1980s bachelor pad. "It was a drab kitchen, quite dark and uninviting, and there was no flow-through because the high counter cut off the room from the dining and living areas," recalls Wendy.

Enter interior designer Fiona Austin, who transformed the cramped kitchen. "We completely redesigned the space, creating an elegant 'L'-shape with a marble-topped island unit and plenty of cupboard space," she says. The new zone opens out onto the large dining area and boasts pale, Shaker-style cabinets teamed with Calacatta marble for a European edge.

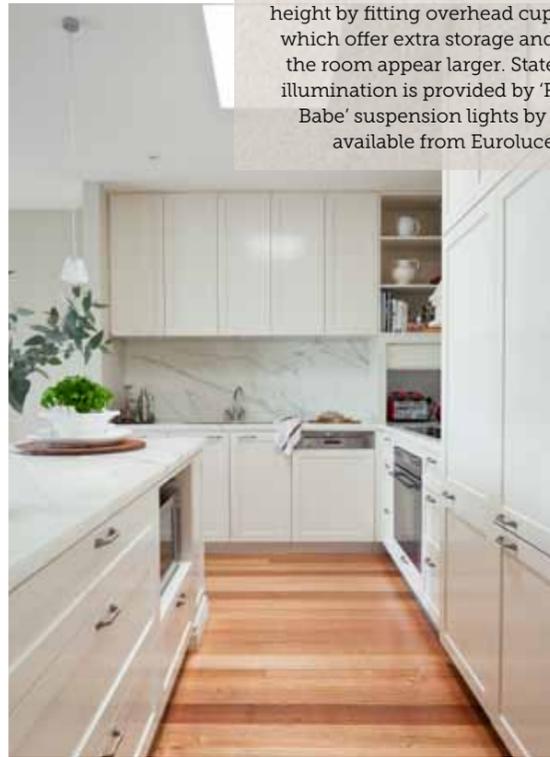
"We are over the moon with the new kitchen," enthuses Wendy. "It's always been my dream to have marble benchtops – I don't even mind cleaning them!" >



Layout Reconfiguring the floorplan has made this space ideal for entertaining – the island makes the work area more accessible while delivering a place for plating up. The cleaning zone, with its Oliveri sink and 'Icon Plus' tap from Astra Walker, also includes a semi-integrated dishwasher, and is tucked discreetly away to the side.



before



Storage and lighting Interior designer Fiona took advantage of the room's height by fitting overhead cupboards, which offer extra storage and make the room appear larger. Statement illumination is provided by 'Romeo Babe' suspension lights by Flos, available from Euroluce.

"The kitchen is a *social space* now. We enjoy *entertaining* and having friends round to chat while we prepare dinner" - Wendy

Island The kitchen island pulls triple duty as an informal meals area, prep zone and storage unit. Rattan bar stools from Sasson and a traditional-style wall clock from Gaudions complete the look.



BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Appliances Oven and induction cooktop, Smeg; fridge, Fisher and Paykel.....\$9500
Benchtop and splashback
 Calacatta marble.....\$19,500
Cabinetry Shaker-style cupboards finished in 2-pac polyurethane and painted in Dulux Stowe White\$25,000
Floors Existing timber boards sanded and finished in Whittle Wax.....\$2000
Paint Dulux Wash & Wear Barrier Technology paint in Grand Piano (walls) and Stowe White (ceiling)\$35.95/1L
Sink and tapware Oliveri 'Monet' undermount sink, Appliances Online; 'Icon Plus' tapware, Astra Walker.....\$1135

Total **\$57,135***

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* PAINTING COSTS NOT INCLUDED. SOME COSTS ARE BASED ON OWNERS' ESTIMATES AND WILL VARY.



"I was desperate to have *marble* in the kitchen. I like that over time it takes on its own *personality*"

Modern classic The elegant Shaker-style cabinetry is painted in Dulux Stowe White, a soft tone that complements the Calacatta marble benchtops and splashbacks. "The marble was so heavy they had to crane it in over the balcony!" recalls Wendy. A handy breakfast nook tides away the kettle and toaster under open shelving, where everyday necessities are within reach of the Smeg oven and induction cooktop. The finishing touch is a stylish rangehood designed by Fiona and clad in 2-pac polyurethane to match the cabinetry. **hb**

