

KITCHEN

design
spotlight

BEECH BEAUTY

BEHIND ITS MINIMALIST FACADE, THIS KITCHEN
CONCEALS A SMORGASBORD OF PRACTICAL
IDEAS DESIGNED FOR BUSY FAMILY LIFE

Words VANESSA KEYS Photography SHANIA SHEGEDYN

At first glance, you probably can't tell this kitchen belongs to a young couple with four boisterous kids. But look beyond the clean, Scandi-inspired lines and you'll find it's packed with practical features, from the stain-resistant porcelain benchtop and durable timber-look laminate cabinetry to the butler's pantry with its secondary sink and dishwasher. "The owners are frequent entertainers with a large family, so they needed a functional space that could endure anything they threw at it," says Milé Trpkovski from In2, who designed and ran the project. "Early on, we met and talked extensively about their rituals and routines, everything from how the kids gathered around the island for breakfast to specific storage needs." To accommodate the family, Milé designed a large, cantilevered island bench to sit at the heart of the space. Brimming with storage, it doubles as an entertaining hub and breakfast bar, plus conceals an integrated dishwasher. And, because practicality shouldn't trump style, the marble-look benchtop is super durable Dekton porcelain, which is scuff-, stain- and heat-resistant. Sums up Milé, "This kitchen is built on the belief that good design is both beautiful and functional, and should remain so for a long time." >

"The owners loved the look of natural stone, but it's just too fragile for daily use," says designer Milé Trpkovski, who instead chose a porcelain top from Dekton in marble-look Aura for the kitchen of this family home in Melbourne. "This is the most lifeproof benchtop I've seen, and the incredible veining in the stone creates a very impressive marble replica," he explains. "And, because it's a fraction of the cost, we were able to use the same material on all the benchtops, plus the splashback."

{EXPERT TIP}

STORAGE

THE DEEP BOTTOM DRAWERS INCLUDE PEGBOARDS TO KEEP POTS AND PANS IN PLACE WHILE, NESTLED BENEATH THE STOVETOP, THE TOP DRAWERS INCLUDE DIVIDERS TO KEEP SPICES, CUTLERY, TEA TOWELS AND FOIL NEATLY ORGANISED.



The undermount sink “is much more seamless than overmount and far easier to clean”, explains designer Milé. The Armando Vicario ‘Tink-d’ kitchen mixer with pull-out from Abey, in Black, completes the sleek look. “Black tapware is on trend right now, because it doesn’t watermark nearly as much as chrome,” he adds.

finishes

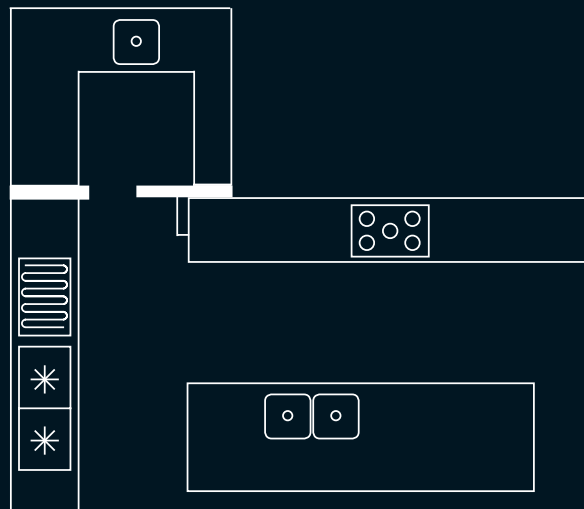
In keeping with the kitchen’s pared-back aesthetic, Milé eschewed protruding hardware for groove handles on soft-close drawers finished in Polytec Legato Serene (above & below). To anchor the look, the same grey laminate has been used to frame the entirety of the kitchen cabinetry (Nikpol Natural Bardolino Oak). “The pop of grey is a great antidote to all that timber-look laminate cabinetry and white benchtops,” says Milé.

“EVERY SURFACE AND MATERIAL HAS BEEN CAREFULLY SELECTED TO LAST A LIFETIME” ~ MILÉ TRPKOVSKI, DESIGNER



With four kids vying for space during the week and a large family coming together to cook on weekends, the lighting needed to focus less on aesthetics and more on the task at hand. “We avoided pendants, because there was already one in the dining room and they tend to compete with each other,” says Milé.

floor plan



source book

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