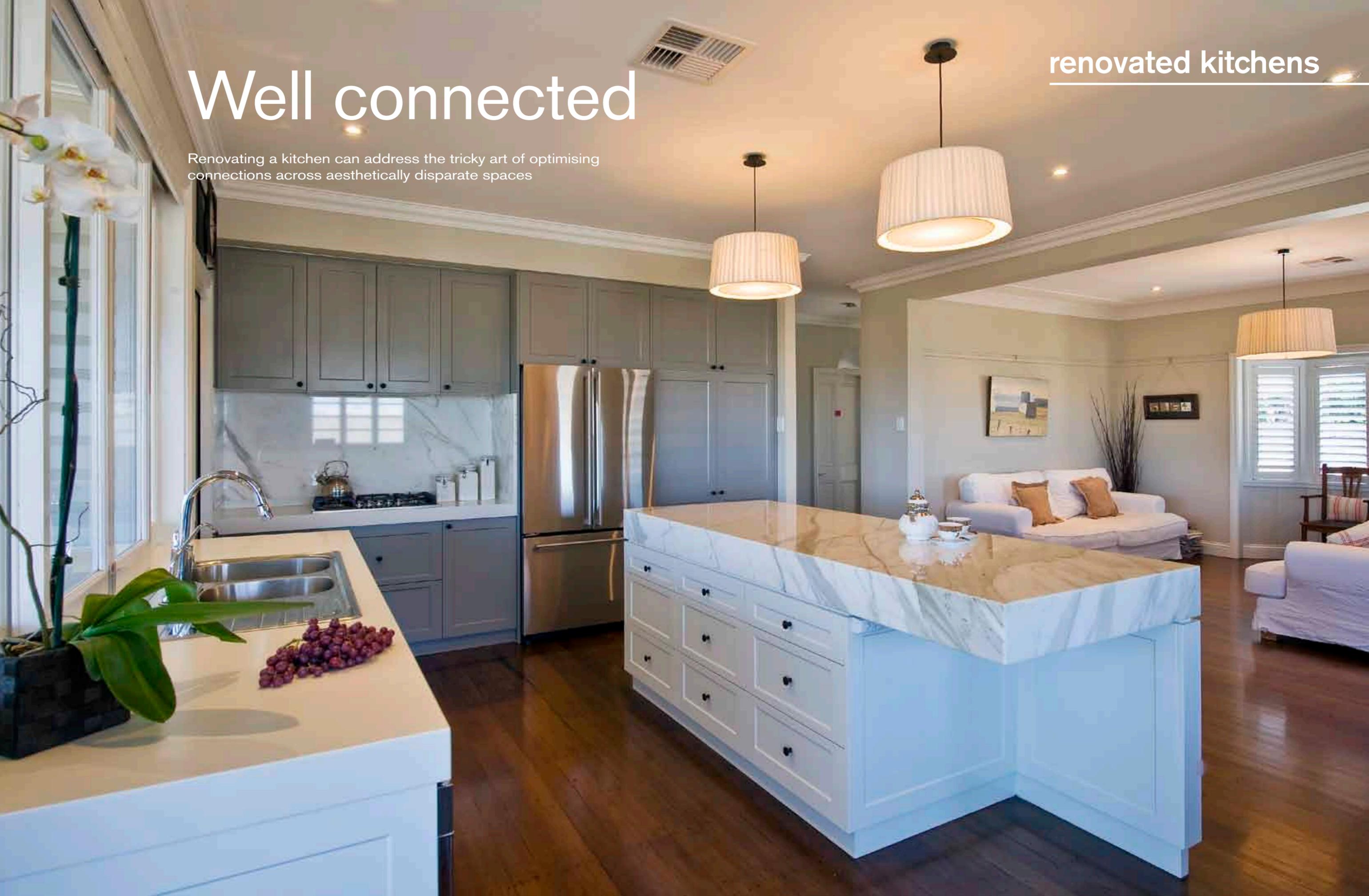


Well connected

Renovating a kitchen can address the tricky art of optimising connections across aesthetically disparate spaces

renovated kitchens





Kitchen designer: Darren James, KBDI, HIA, Interiors by Darren James (Loganholme, Qld)
Kitchen manufacturer: Interiors by Darren James
Cabinetry: Flexipress in two-pack satin: Dulux Blue Steel and Divine White
Splashback: Calacatta Oro marble
Benchtops: Calacatta Oro marble and Corian Cameo White from Fine Stone Marble and Granite
Sink: Franke
Oven: Neff double oven
Cooktop: Ilve gas cooktop
Ventilation: Neff concealed rangehood
Refrigeration: Jenn-Air; Vintec wine fridge
Dishwasher: Neff semi-integrated

Story by Charles Moxham
Photography by ??????



Preceding pages: This kitchen, by designer Darren James, provides an aesthetic connection to other areas. The grey and white of the cabinetry play off the mid-grey of the adjacent living spaces.

Above left: A shadow line between island and benchtop gives this substantial feature a floating feel.

Above: The oven, microwave and smaller appliances are located in a corner pantry.

Subtle air

This kitchen's quiet demeanour allows an island with a deep benchtop to take centre stage

Often a kitchen makeover is part of a more wide-ranging renovation. Reinventing this key area presents the opportunity to smooth the transition between new and original spaces.

When kitchen designer Darren James came to this project, much of the home's interior was stripped out, creating a blank canvas. Outside, the existing house frontage was retained, while the rear was transformed and modernised.

"For the new kitchen, the owners wanted an understated look that wouldn't date," says James. "Essentially, they wanted a traditional space with some modern touches."

In response, James created a transitional workspace that links the front of the residence with the rear in a demure fashion.

"I introduced panelled cabinetry to create a classic style," says James. "This is matched with Corian work surfaces on the wall cabinetry and a splashback and island benchtop in marble."

The island counter – a central feature of the kitchen – is in 20mm-thick marble, book-matched and set over a 150mm boxed frame.

The bench block provides a clean-lined, modern touch, as does the gleaming stainless steel-fronted refrigerator. However, the majority

of appliances are set in a corner pantry. This was a client request, providing a way to keep clutter out of sight from the living spaces.

The rear-wall benchtop runs right through to the outside of the home, acting as a servery for the deck. Top-hung, bifold windows mean there are no fenestration grooves in the surface.

There is also another ancillary space. A small office, complete with computer and desk, is tucked behind cabinet doors by the refrigerator.

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