



Interiors by Darren James – Award Winning Designs

Award winning Darren James drew rave reviews from the judges at the 2010 KBDI Kitchen and Bathroom Designers Awards for these two stunning kitchens that earned him the prestigious title of 'National Certified Designer of the Year'. The judges commented that Darren "displayed a strong understanding of the principles of design, an appreciation of interior design and, in particular, a clever and consistent ability to successfully resolve the client brief".

The brief for the kitchen above (which also won the KBDI Queensland Medium Kitchen Design of the Year) was very clear: to create an open-plan kitchen that integrated into the living room whilst still remaining a defined space, to provide direct access to the outdoor pool and alfresco area without being a thoroughfare and to satisfy the requirements of an enthusiastic and demanding gourmand.

At the heart of the kitchen is the large unusual 'L shaped' island bench which anchors the utility of the kitchen.

Finished with a soft lacquered linear timber veneer, the island bench adds a sense of solidity to the room and the 'Whisper' Caesarstone benchtops

contrast perfectly with the grey tones used in the remaining high gloss lacquered cabinetry and tiled floor. The raised veneer section on the island cleverly conceals the cleaning/sink zone and ensures the preparation mess is hidden from view when entertaining.

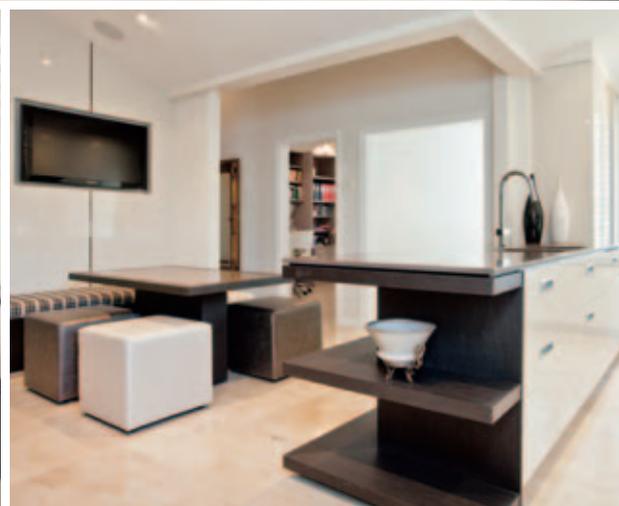
In keeping with the streamlined finish requested by the owners, shadow line finger pulls create a flush finish along the surface of the cabinets and ensure that nothing protrudes into the work areas. Overhead cupboards have been fitted with Tip-On touch catches by Blum to maintain the minimal look.

Darren prefers to use the very best fittings and fixtures as he finds that they last the distance. The sink is from Oliveri. He says "I love their professional series range and use them a lot. They offer a large capacity undermount sink that complements my modern contemporary kitchen designs. Their tight radius achieves the square profile look whilst still remaining hygienic and easy to clean. We all know sinks receive a real workout and therefore quality is essential".

Other preferred products are Caesarstone and Blum for their quality and the fact that they are continually evolving. "Style and durability are important considerations in my projects and Caesarstone offer the ultimate combination of form and function, diversity and durability. As a worktop surface its durability, stain, scratch and heat resistant properties appeal to my clients and make it the perfect choice for carefree kitchen benchtops. The Caesarstone brand and quality reputation is well known with my clients which makes my job even easier.

"My kitchens are specially planned to meet my client's needs and Blum's well thought out solutions, quality equipment and hardware suit every application and function my clients require. From a design point of view their elegant design, extreme flexibility, ease of use, innovative technology, and effortlessly silent closing mechanisms cement everything I want in my kitchen designs. As we also manufacture, quality, durability, ease of assembly and adjustment are of equal importance and Blum deliver every time.

The overall transformation shows what is possible when adaptive design techniques focus on the possibilities within an entire space and not an existing room. The design reflects the very best in contemporary kitchen design, clever utilisation of space through innovative and multi-functional structural elements.



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The second award winning project that sealed the deal giving Darren top honours at the 2010 KBDi Kitchen and Bathroom Awards was this beautiful kitchen Darren refers to as the 'Living Room' Kitchen. The brief for this renovation called for extensive remodelling that would combine the kitchen and living space in a unique way. The remodelling necessitated a complete repositioning of the kitchen to allow for a more functional space. Split level 20mm Caesarstone 'Mink' benchtops with a 10mm shadow line were incorporated into the design and 940mm high working surfaces provide an ergonomic height for the clients.

Awkward spaces and a lack of storage have been thoughtfully resolved clearing the way for a more functional streamlined kitchen and simpler life. Every storage item has been thoughtfully located in terms of function and frequency of use, with the use of Blum slow motion drawers keeping everything within easy reach. Concealed behind the high gloss lacquered doors and drawers is the full range of Blum organisational accessories including plate racks, spice racks as well as 'orgaline' for cutlery and utensils. An Oliveri 'Professional Series' sink is an elegant solution to a kitchen necessity. Clean lines and simple minimalist shapes bring order to this busy room and reflect a European style. Accentuated by the textural finishes and earthy colour scheme, this kitchen delivers a timeless elegance that is sympathetic to the era of the home.

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KITCHENS + BATHROOMS + WARDROBES + INTERIORS

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