

# Shape shifting

*Going from bland to beautiful was a breeze for Interiors by Darren James*

CONTRASTING NATURAL AND HIGH-GLOSS MATERIALS GIVE A UNIQUE BLEND OF TEXTURE IN THIS KITCHEN AND DELICATELY TIES IN THE NATURAL ELEMENTS OF THE OUTSIDE LANDSCAPE WITH THE INTERIORS.



**Sometimes it's the** most simple design that can have the biggest impact. Darren James of Interiors by Darren James wanted to give shape back to this home's tired, old kitchen and take advantage of the landscaped gardens beyond.

Although the contemporary look seems basic, each element has been carefully chosen to create a delicate balance of texture, colour and light. The use of high-gloss lacquer cabinetry, for example, gives a very streamlined look while adding a deliberate indulgence.

The previous kitchen was less than half the size of the renovation and existed in an extremely closed-in room that made it virtually impossible for the owners to entertain and to enjoy any open-plan living. "The kitchen didn't have a flow, any work space and limited storage, resulting in the owners having to store a large majority of kitchen items outside the kitchen cupboards", says Darren. So much so that he says the kitchen devalued the property.

A designer veneer Eco Teak island provides a stunning contrast the high-gloss cabinetry and provides a wonderful space to entertain several guests. A stainless-steel pull-out appliance shelf and an extra workstation are hidden behind doors, ensuring a completely uninterrupted dynamic.

Although the kitchen is sublime in aesthetic, the functional elements were a priority. The client's main cooking style is Asian cuisine; this not only meant the requirement of large prep areas, but a well-organised kitchen to hold large items. It also meant that the kitchen required high-performance, smart cooking appliances with the new design encapsulated all of this.

This Asian influence is woven through the space and a Zen feel is promoted through bringing the outside into the space and natural light that pours in.

The final effect is one of balance, light, space and understated cool. Not only does it combine the client's desire for a functional space but it is a work of art that takes inspiration from life.



## Fact file

The kitchen was designed by Darren James and built by **INTERIORS BY DARREN JAMES PTY LTD**

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**Doors** High-gloss lacquer Resene in Gravel

**Panels** Feature wall — NAV Eco Teak smooth lacquer

**Handles** J & C Scoop anodised aluminium

**Benchtop** CaesarStone Whisper

**Internal hardware** Blum Perfect Motion

**Kickboards** High-gloss lacquer Resene in Gravel

**Floor** Parquetry brush box **Lights** 12-volt downlights

**Sink** Oliveri professional double undermount

**Tap** Aquavilla **Appliances** Smeg canopy rangehood; Fisher & Paykel side-by-side fridge; Miele combi oven, steam oven, side-opening pyrolytic oven, warming drawer; Vintec wine fridge

