



Perfect balance

A well-designed blend of old and new allows this kitchen to exist in harmony within its Queensland home





FEATURE PIECES MAKE A KITCHEN SHINE SUCH AS THE ELICA CRYSTAL RANGEHOOD, CHOOSING TO USE ALL-MIELE APPLIANCES AND THE INCLUSION OF STUNNING NATURAL MARBLE AS A FEATURE PANEL.



Typical of the original era of the house, the old kitchen was extremely pokey and boxed in, which made cooking, entertaining and socialising very difficult. Designer Darren James was asked to remodel the space to better reflect today's lifestyle with a focus on family living.

Darren's first task was to remove a number of walls to create a single, open-plan space that would house the kitchen and living spaces in one. His clients' brief was to create a modern, minimalist kitchen that would reflect the latest European design. In addition, they particularly requested a white-on-white colour scheme.

"To open up the space we took out the existing wall that divided the kitchen and living room," explains Darren. "Immediately, this made the space more functional and aesthetically pleasing and I was able to focus on the design and layout."

For added visual punch, Darren has included a feature panel on the rear island bench in Calcutta marble. Against the simplicity of the white-on-white cabinets, the marble is allowed to shine with its character and textural appeal one of the first items noticed by visitors. The marble is a lovely natural touch that offsets the otherwise stark nature of this European-inspired kitchen.

In terms of design, Darren has focused on symmetry to create the clean lines and streamlined finish seen here. Each of the cabinetry units is divided into equal vertical components, which creates a soothing exterior. Storage aplenty is provided by the amazing number of drawers that were able to be incorporated with internal fittings from Blum ensuring the space will always be well organised.

The kitchen sits well in this home and brings a modern touch without overwhelming the space. Conscious that the original Queenslander home had plenty of style and character of its own, Darren was careful to choose fittings and fixtures that wouldn't jar with the space. Instead, he has selected a style that visually blends into the existing decor and creates a seamless progression from the older sections of the home into the new.

Fact file

The kitchen was designed by Darren James and built by **INTERIORS BY DARREN JAMES** Brisbane Qld 4000 **Phone** (07) 3801 2566

Email info@interiorsbydarrenjames.com.au **Website** www.interiorsbydarrenjames.com.au **Doors** Lacquered satin white **Panels** Lacquered satin white with rear island panel in Calcutta marble **Internal hardware** Blum **Handles** Recessed, lacquered **Benchtop** 80mm Corian Cameo White **Kickboards** Stainless steel

Floor Original timber floorboards **Appliances** include a Miele compact oven, steam oven, coffee machine, dishwasher and induction cooktop, Liebherr integrated refrigerator/freezer, Elica rangehood, moulded Corian sink, pull-out veggie spray taps and a Zip HydroTap **Rix Ryan Photography**