

**EXPERT TIP**

Don't overdesign a space. A sophisticated space comes from the simplicity of its design.



## SIMPLICITY EQUALS SOPHISTICATION

A practical, no-fuss design and effortless good looks set this kitchen apart

For a kitchen to stand out from the crowd, it doesn't necessarily need to be especially over the top. Rather than relying on tacky gimmicks to get attention, some kitchens use clever design and simple, understated good looks to improve the look and feel of a home.

When the owners of this home approached Darren James from Interiors By Darren James to create their new kitchen, their list of requests was reasonably short. The most important was a large amount of storage for all their kitchen utensils, with as many drawers as possible also an absolute must. "They also wanted a modern, simple design with some punchy visual impact," Darren explains.

Contemporary in design, the new kitchen meets all the owners' requirements. There's nothing over the top about the design, but it still has enough features to make people stop and admire the room. The marble feature panel immediately draws the eye and the high-gloss lacquer cabinetry also stands out, while the "Ebony" Electrolux refrigerator and black Elica rangehood are other points of interest.

The cabinetry is recessed into the walls to

provide a seamless look and contribute to the modern aesthetic. Smart LED lighting along with three feature pendants keep the area brightly lit.

The top-of-the-range VZUG appliances make cooking a breeze; their modern, minimal styling enhances the look of the room, while the cleverly designed pull-out appliance benchtop helps maintain its streamlined appearance.

"This kitchen is also built on a platform, higher than the main living floor level," Darren says. "This provided the perfect height for stools to be placed for casual eating."

Offering a practical spot for an after-work drink or some casual dining, these contemporary-looking stools complete the overall package. **KBQ**

**Designer details**

The kitchen was designed and built by

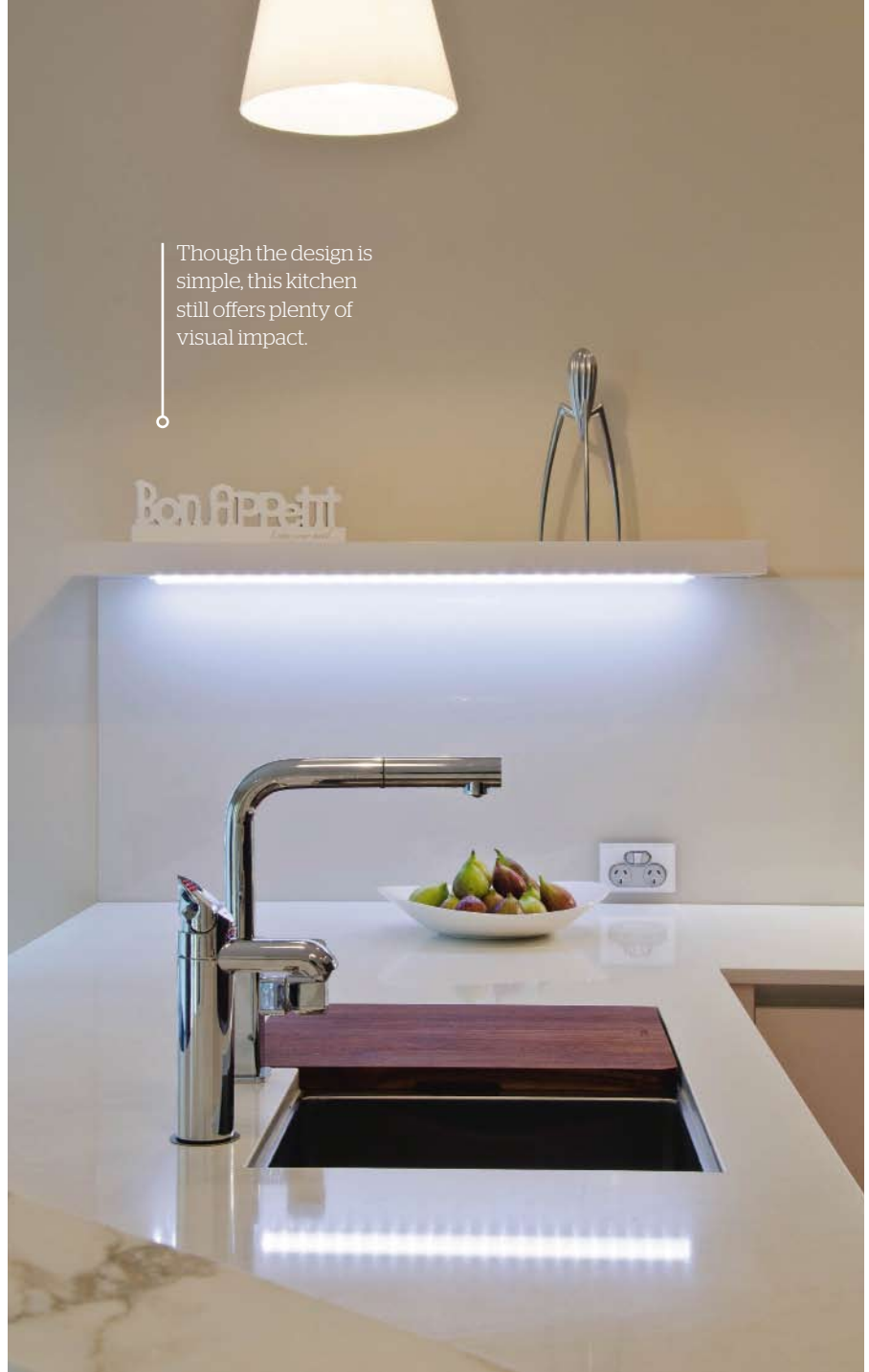
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**Photography** Murray Rix –  
Rix Ryan Photography



Though the design is simple, this kitchen still offers plenty of visual impact.

#### KEY ATTRIBUTES

- **Cabinetry** High-gloss lacquer, Resene
- **Internal hardware** Blum
- **Benchtop** Caesarstone
- **Handles** J&C Scoop from Solu
- **Splashback** Painted glass
- **Kickboards** Colour-matched to the high-gloss lacquer
- **Lighting** LED strip light and three feature pendants

#### APPLIANCES

- **Oven** V-Zug
- **Cooktop/hotplate** V-Zug
- **Rangehood/canopy** Elica
- **Dishwasher** V-Zug
- **Refrigerator** Electrolux
- **Sink** Oliveri
- **Taps** Franke

