

A family friendly, sophisticated space

A contemporary kitchen design that hit the mark led to a repeat performance, this time in the bathroom, for Auckland-based designer Natalie Du Bois.

For the initial brief the clients' must-have was an open usable kitchen space with plenty of workable benchtops for their renovated bungalow. Natalie achieved this using Caesarstone in Raven on either side of the hob and on the island, where a recessed negative detail and waterfall edge gave a point of difference.



A separate scullery was requested in order to maintain a simplistic, contemporary kitchen whilst providing space for the family. Located at the end of the kitchen and hidden from view of the main entertainment areas, the scullery contains the children's activity board and as well as a hidden step ladder to allow access to top shelves with ease.

The clients asked for a neutral palette as the dining and living areas are located within the same open space; this, along with the careful execution of lighting, in particular its effect on the mosaics behind the island give a dramatic yet timeless look to the space.

One year later the client briefed a redesign to their bathroom, hoping to achieve the same look and feel as their kitchen. Again, they asked for a simple, modern space that was aesthetically appealing but still functional as a guest bathroom and a space for three children.

An extra wide basin was chosen to allow multiple children to brush their teeth at the same time, with cut-outs on the drawers to allow for power points so that electric toothbrushes could be plugged in permanently within the drawers, minimising visible clutter.

The vanity top uses the same Caesarstone Raven as the kitchen, and again a waterfall side echoes the designs from the hub of the home. Dark timber veneer is matched to the dark stone to create a block of colour that emphasises the visual impact of the large basin.

A tall cabinet provides separate storage compartments for each of the children, with a Caesarstone top and power points fitted inside so that appliances such as hairdryers can be plugged in whilst looking in the cabinet's mirror.



This maximises the functionality of the space, but keeps everything clean and tidy.

Again lighting plays an important part in the design of this space – the pendant lights either side of the mirror minimise shadows and introducing clear glass panels to the top windows (in place of the ornate lead light windows) above the bath allow natural light to enter from outside. Demisters have been used to ensure the mirror is kept free from steam to facilitate early morning routine for the family.

Natalie's favourite element is the textured mosaic tiles behind the bath – the combination of gloss and matt patterned tiles provide a lively backdrop to the freestanding bath.

Together the two spaces provide continuity of the simple, contemporary look the clients were after, while still providing all the functions that a busy family needs.

Project: Residential kitchen and bathroom

Design: Natalie Du Bois, Du Bois Design

Products Used: Caesarstone Raven

Photography: Jamie Cobel

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