



Gathered together

This family kitchen celebrates the eclectic tastes of its owners, with a variety of elements chosen for their iconic forms

When a kitchen is open to the living areas, the cabinetry and island are often made to look like furniture, to help blend the spaces together. But the design can go a step further, introducing elements chosen because the homeowners love each piece and want to enjoy them every day.

For this kitchen in a traditional home, the owners asked designer Natalie Du Bois for a welcoming, quirky, industrial aesthetic with natural accents. The look was to be simple, with plenty of display space, says Du Bois.

"This kitchen has more work areas than the original, due in part to the addition of a new

butler's pantry, which is almost the same size as the kitchen itself. This 'second kitchen' offers lots of storage, a butler's sink and dishwasher."

Most of the messier aspects of kitchen life, such as breakfast clutter, are relegated to this ancillary room, freeing up the main area for cooking and entertaining.

"Another major advantage of such a large butler's pantry is that both the owners and their two children can all use the kitchen at the same time without getting under each other's feet.

"Although most pieces here were chosen because the clients liked them individually,

Above left: This kitchen reinvented by Natalie Du Bois features a variety of elements in different styles from different eras.

Above: Stained wood cabinetry offers warmth and a furniture-like sensibility, appropriate to a kitchen open to the living spaces of the home. Shelving on the front of the island furthers this impression, and provides a place for the owners to display objects and store cookbooks.



Kitchen designer: Natalie Du Bois, Du Bois Design (Auckland)
Cabinetry: Stained oak veneer
Splashback: Subway tiles in White Satin from Heritage Tiles
Hardware, storage systems: Blum
Benchtops: Stainless steel, combination of brushed and textured, by SJ Crosbie Stainless Steel; concrete benchtop by Terrazzo + Stoneworks
Kitchen sink: Butler's sink from In Residence; prep sink on island, Aoraki by Heritage Hardware
Taps: Black Pan mixers with spray attachments from Robertson
Oven: Falcon Excel
Ventilation: Falcon 110 plus
Refrigeration: Samsung
Dishwasher: Asko
Bins: Häfele Euro Cargo; Hideaway
Bar stools: Pedro high stool by Simon James
Flooring: White-painted timber
Wall coverings: Aalto Prototype
Lighting: Ampel pendants designed by Tim Webber, from Corporate Culture

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each element does connect with another," says Du Bois. "For example, the concrete island bench, freestanding stainless steel refrigerator and perimeter benchtops, along with the black tapware and black prep sink all contribute to an industrial feel, while the butler's sink in the pantry and subway tiles on the splashback are more traditional in flavour.

"The subtle palette of grey, black, white and metal further draws the kitchen together."

The designer's choice of wood for the island and perimeter cabinets evokes a furniture-like aesthetic when viewed from the living area, and

also brings the desired warmth to the kitchen.

"In addition, we painted the timber floors white, which contrasts the darker elements, such as the cabinetry and appliances – this gives the entire kitchen a more dramatic presence."

The stepped splashback and a shelf above provide ample space for displaying objects, as does shelving on the front of the island.

"Another aspect of this kitchen is that it will resist becoming out of date," says Du Bois. "This is because so many of the elements, modern or otherwise, are design classics, including the butler's sink and black taps."

Facing page: A tight work triangle between refrigerator, oven and island makes for easy preparation and cooking – especially with most other functions farmed out to the pantry.

Above left: With the same subway tile splashback and similar stainless steel benchtops, the butler's pantry links with the kitchen in material terms. A dishwasher brings added functionality to the space and helps keep the kitchen clutter free.