



For this rural west Auckland laundry, Natalie Du Bois, of Du Bois Design, chose: Caesarstone 'Snow' benchtops; Blum Intivo hardware; Pains Le Mans mixer; Sergio sink; Image Glass coloured glass splashback; Bosch Logixx 8 washer; Asko T754HP condensing heat pump drier and Asko HSS105 Hidden Helper sorting tray/utility shelf; high-gloss cabinetry colour-matched to Resene 'Alabaster'; Resene 'Half Joanna' walls; Resene 'Half Alabaster' ceilings; Montacute wallpaper by Nina Campbell; Lipica flooring tiles.

HARD-WORKING LAUNDRY

COMMON WISDOM IS to let sleeping dogs lie, so when Natalie Du Bois of Du Bois Design mapped out this reconfigured laundry in a home on a semi-rural property in west Auckland, she kept an area for the family pooch set aside: "He was in the habit of sleeping in a basket in the laundry."

The owners needed a laundry that could function well for their outdoorsy lifestyle and the mountains of washing generated by two active teenage daughters. The original room was a long, narrow, gloomy space that ran the length of one wall.

Natalie added a dividing wall with a glass door at the end of the room to create a separate pantry area that links to the kitchen. A bank of floor-to-ceiling storage cupboards on one side of the room accommodates brooms, buckets, ironing board etc. Opposite that is the washer and drier. Natalie chose front loaders for their energy efficiency but, instead of stacking them, she offset the drier above and to the right. "The doors open in opposite directions so it's easy to load wet washing directly into the drier."

The 600mm-wide, deep, stainless steel tub rebated into the reconstituted stone bench is ideal for soaking the horsey gear of this equestrian family. "We include large, deep kitchen sinks in our laundries as we want them to work in unison with the kitchen space," says Natalie. A hanging rail for airing clothes is above the tub.

High-gloss lacquer cabinetry in white not only lightens the room but makes it feel clean and pristine. Visual links to other rooms were important as the laundry can be seen from the pantry/kitchen and the living space, if the doors are open. The modern-country print wallpaper above the tub echoes the one in the dining/living zone. "It's wipe-able, fairly traditional and adds an element of fun." A white glass splashback behind the tub ensures durability.



The homeowners were more than happy with the result and though, sadly, the pet that was an original part of the plans has passed on, the family's new best friend enjoys his sleeping quarters just as much.

FIVE LAUNDRY DESIGN IDEAS

- Using a tall, swan-necked kitchen mixer with a detachable spray above the tub makes it easier to hose down surfaces, while allowing better access to the tub for bulkier items.
- Laundries tend to be smaller-volume spaces tucked away on the south side of a home. Keep them light and bright with high-gloss paint finishes.
- Incorporate laundry drawers with baskets for sorting dirty washing.
- A condensing heat pump drier was included in this laundry. It does not need ducting (useful when there is no outside wall) and works like a dehumidifier in that moisture extracted from the clothes is channelled into a tray and emptied manually or plumbed in.
- Consider installing a "hidden" laundry shelf as part of the cabinetry. This sits below the drier and can be pulled out to use as a sorting table when needed.