

HAMPTONS CHARM

HOSTING BEAUTY

kitchen

AN ELEGANT NEW KITCHEN SWITCHES EFFORTLESSLY BETWEEN
RELAXED FAMILY HUB AND EVER-READY ENTERTAINER

WORDS SALLY PATERSON STYLING WENDY BANNISTER PHOTOGRAPHY SHANIA SHEGEDY

AESTHETICS The home's origins as an 1886 farmhouse are referenced in the tall ceilings, graceful skirting boards and Shaker-style panelled joinery punctuated by pewter handles. "It's a warm, classic and traditional home," explains designer Jo McIntyre. "The Shaker profile suited both the house and homeowner Ruth's own style."

When entertaining is serious business in your home, a kitchen that can assume the role of host at a moment's notice is a must. Take Ruth's striking cookzone in Melbourne's eastern suburbs: not only is it a bustling hub for her family – husband Eric and children Henry, 19, Emily, 17 and Isabelle, 14 – it's also equipped with impressive catering credentials, from a butler's pantry to an expansive island bench.

The elegant, monochrome space is the result of a sparkling makeover that has significantly upgraded the room's functionality. "We couldn't see out to the pool and it had no room to move," says Ruth of the space's previous incarnation. "All of my storage was below the bench and I had very narrow workspaces." Designer Jo McIntyre of Beautiful Home was called in to reconfigure and extend the rear of the house, positioning the new kitchen to link directly with the outdoors.

Now, as well as serving up a scene of monochrome sophistication, the room can instantly take the party from inside to out. "It's so much more open and there is a lot more natural light," says Ruth.



CABINETRY Joinery in Dulux Classic White and Monument packs a visual punch, softened by the elegant tones of the three-metre piece of Carrara marble on the island, which was chosen not only for its beauty but as a suitable surface for rolling out pastry. "The colours evolved as we were designing the kitchen," says designer Jo. "We brought the black into the joinery after Ruth chose the stove." The Steel Cuisine 'Ascot 100' freestanding cooker is the consummate cook's companion, complete with induction cooktop and double-oven capacity with steam option.

*SOME COSTS ARE BASED ON OWNERS' ESTIMATES AND WILL VARY
ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

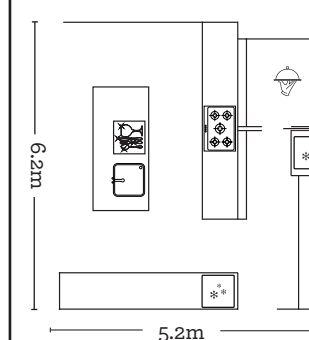
BUTLER'S PANTRY Running behind the full width of the kitchen, the butler's pantry was a must-have for hostess Ruth. "She likes to add a bit of theatre to her dinner parties," explains Jo. "By having a pantry that's not visible from the kitchen, she can hide away stages of a meal and have the element of surprise when presenting at the table."



.lessons learned.

"It's so important to change things along the way if there's something that you love," says Ruth. "Halfway through the process, I panicked that our kitchen was going to be too white." Ruth and Jo workshopped the palette, building on the boldness of the black cooker and bringing in the swirling tones of Carrara marble in the island benchtop. "It's one of the best decisions we made!" adds Ruth.

KITCHEN LAYOUT



DESIGNER: Jo McIntyre,
Beautiful Home,
beautifulhome.net.au.
Stockists, page 252

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Appliances:.....\$18,000
Benchtops:.....\$8000
Joinery:.....\$34,000
Lighting:.....\$1000
Tiles (incl. labour):.....\$1150

TOTAL: \$62,150*

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