

CREATIVE KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

100+

BRILLIANT
IDEAS

LATEST LOOKS
FOR YOUR
BATHROOM

Plus

FABULOUS
NEW PRODUCTS

8

FUN AND
FAMILY-FRIENDLY
KITCHENS

Vol 2 No 3
A\$9.95 Incl GST
NZ\$9.95 Incl GST



7 82330 02876 2

KITCHEN

GO
WITH
THE

Flow

Part of an open-plan living room
this kitchen needed to cooperate
with its surroundings.

STORY BY ALEXANDRA FISHBURN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TONY POTTER
STYLING BY KIRSTIN BARDL KATALINIC

The extra-large kitchen bench means there is plenty of room for the kids to do their homework while Amgad cooks dinner.



IT WIN! CH
GONS CAM
E COMBA
GAME-OV
GEONS FI
GLE TRUTH
SHOOT
DRAGON
LOVE CO
EACE GAM
DUNGEON
JUNGLE
RASH SHO
FLASH DR
SEEK LO
ALL PEAC
DIEM DU
OWER! JU
IN! CRAS
FLASH DR
SEEK LO
ALL PEAC
DIEM



If you live on acreage but decide to downsize to a more convenient family-sized block in the suburbs, chances are compromises will need to be made in terms of space. You wave goodbye to the dream of a vast, state-of-the-art, open-plan kitchen and settle for something a lot more compact and conservative. For Amgad Kahmel and his family however, it was quite the opposite. They were determined to build their dream home with all the bells and whistles and as an interior designer Amgad had the expertise to make it work.

THE HEART OF THE HOME

Their kitchen is part of a big, multi-functional room that flows out to the garden. "I designed it to suit a lifestyle, we like entertaining, we like to have open-plan living," says Amgad, referring to the kitchen's prime position in the living area. Directly opposite is the

media zone, with a TV, surround-sound and a generous modular sofa, and adjacent is casual dining where the family enjoys dinner together every night. So from the kitchen it's easy to interact with anyone in the general area, whether it's hosting a crowd during a party or supervising the kids' homework on a weeknight.

The house was built by Eden Brae Homes, a local project homebuilder, but Amgad made variations to the plans as he saw fit and in the kitchen especially he took certain liberties. From the beginning he knew he wanted to anchor the area with an extra-large island bench and had to shift walls in order to get the look right. "I've extended that back wall another couple of metres from the original plan just so I got the proportions right with the island, and for the way I wanted the space to be," he reveals. "So the way it's designed actually influenced the overall design on the house."



The clever placement of a window beside the cooktop ensures this kitchen is well-ventilated.



ABOVE: Because of its shape and colour they now refer to the pendant light as the chilli light.

BELOW: Evidence of daily family life is etched onto the surface of this kitchen.



KITCHEN CAMOUFLAGE

Once they had committed to having a vast, open-plan kitchen, Amgad then needed to ensure it flowed with the rest of the room. "Looking at the kitchen, it takes up half of the whole living area, so what I wanted when I was designing it was not to have too many details so that it didn't have too much of a kitchen feel to it." The idea was to keep it simple and streamlined. He chose laminate for the kitchen cabinetry, as opposed to timber, because of its contemporary matt finish. He also opted not to have overhead cupboards because he felt they would clutter the space and create an eyesore in the expansive room, and the pendant light was installed in an effort to make the kitchen feel a little less conventional. Due to its shape and colour, they have dubbed it the 'chilli light' and Amgad claims it makes a great talking point. "It adds a cultural feel to the space rather than it just being standard, overhead lighting," he says.



TOP LEFT: The family love entertaining, so the kitchen is well equipped to cater for a crowd.

TOP RIGHT: Amgad used Echelon Redwood woodgrain as a warm accent that gives the kitchen added depth.

BALANCING ACT

One of the most striking features of the kitchen, the wallpapered column, was actually a last-minute addition. During construction the engineer told Amgad that unfortunately they needed a beam or column in the casual dining area for structural purposes. Amgad agonised over what to do before deciding to go with the column, reasoning that it could be used to divide the room into zones without the need for a wall. So to define the kitchen zone he added another column, but covered them both with the same wallpaper to balance the look of the space. As an interior designer, creating this balance was especially important for Amgad. To keep a degree of cohesion across the whole house he painted the walls Dulux Beige Royale and laid the floors with Japanese black-stained floorboards, which in turn dictated his kitchen colours. "I really didn't want to go with a lighter kitchen," adds Amgad. "I originally wanted to have more of a black kitchen but my wife really wasn't keen on that, so I opted for colours that would flow nicely with the floors."



He chose Echelon Redwood woodgrain laminate to act as an accent, which he paired with Paper Bark solid laminate and a Caesarstone Organic White benchtop. The result is a warm and soothing palette, beautifully underscoring the statement column and chilli light.

Amgad has cleverly managed to create a kitchen that can stand on its own and yet doesn't dominate the vast, open-plan room that it's a part of, perfect for a family who love entertaining. "It works perfectly for us, for parties, or for quiet nights at home together," Amgad enthuses. "The space just flows." ■

Kitchen Essentials

Appliances: Smeg

Fridge: Samsung

Benchtop: Caesarstone Organic White

Cabinetry: Echelon Redwood and Paper Bark Laminex

Wall colour: Dulux Beige Royale

Floors: Japanese black stain blackbutt boards

Lighting: Mondo Luce

Bar stools: Globe West

Interior designer: Amgad Kamel ak interiors

www.akinteriors.com.au