

the fab four

These clever ideas will really get your kitchen sizzling

STYLING MIA ASKER PHOTOGRAPHY RICHARD POWERS WORDS CHRIS PEARSON

Fancy the idea of combining practicality with sleek style? Take a look at the innovative ideas owner-architect Peter Kleijn packed into his family's new kitchen to get extra storage, clean lines and great looks.

1 Make nature work harder

Juggling storage needs with access to natural light can be tricky. Peter came up with an innovative solution, installing a cupboard over the top of an existing window. He then added frosted glass Avsikt doors from IKEA to keep the light flowing through. And, when night falls, the downlight mounted in the top of the cupboard makes it a talking point. This clever storage booster cost \$750 all up.

2 Play with the light

Two strategically positioned 20-watt low-voltage downlights transform what could have been dead space under the breakfast bench into a feature. The soft lighting is enough to create a mood without being too hot on the

knees. An added bonus: the smart bar stools from Anibou are thrown into dramatic relief.

3 Max-out your storage

A peek behind the bank of white slotted doors reveals a pantry, laundry, even a full-sized family fridge (and magnets!). The washer sits on an exterior wall, which is convenient for plumbing, and the bi-fold doors allow easy access. Finished in moisture-resistant Lamiwood, from Laminex, the slotted doors also provide plenty of ventilation. The total cost of the joinery was \$6700.

4 Create smooth, sleek lines

This kitchen started out as two separate rooms – a kitchen and a laundry. Knocking down the wall in between opened up the space (good) and exposed the plumbing for the upstairs unit (not so good). The solution? A false ceiling to conceal the pipes. The four recessed downlights over the work areas keep the line of the ceiling clean and streamlined. ■



1 Light relief: a glass cupboard placed over an existing window adds storage without sacrificing natural light. 2 Low-voltage downlights make a feature of the under-bench space. 3 Bi-fold, slotted doors conceal the home's laundry, pantry and the fridge.



4 Neat trick: the false ceiling, hiding the plumbing, is made from hoop pine plywood, with a Dulux Whisper White and polyurethane finish. The ceiling materials cost around \$2600.

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