

all white now

This culinary gem proves that a smart renovation doesn't have to cost the earth

WORDS TANYA SIMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY DIEU TAN STYLING MIA ASKER



Dream homes don't always come with dream kitchens. Just ask *homebeautiful's* style editor, Mia Asker. The unrenovated semi she bought with husband Simon had bags of potential and character, but the original kitchen was beyond help. There was a grubby timber plank covered in tatty wallpaper posing as a kitchen bench, a mouldy sink and an oven that hadn't been used in 10 years. The ugly tangle of water pipes across the back wall were actually there to stop it from falling in.

The kitchen was barely usable, but trouble was, Mia and Simon didn't plan on doing major renovations for a while.

"It was pretty gross," Mia laughs. "But ultimately we want to knock down the whole back of the house, so we had

to come up with a cheap solution in the meantime that looked good."

While it helped that Simon is a carpenter and could build the new fit-out himself, Mia kept costs down with cheap-as-chips (but totally tasteful) finishes and some savvy appliance shopping.

They ripped out the cupboards, water pipes and the back door – which fell in after the pipes came off – then built in the simple new finishes. These included deep cupboards made from MDF, laminate benchtops, rubber flooring from Clark Rubber and a simple IKEA ceiling light (Mia already had the mixer tap). An extra cupboard unit on the right adds valuable storage and bench space. The cupboards and walls were painted white, giving the small kitchen a spacious feel.

Glamour comes from smart rail handles and the designer Miele appliances, which Mia picked up for a song by sourcing factory seconds and ex-display models from Winning Appliances. She went for a slimline microwave/convection oven rather than a conventional oven, which does the job for a fraction of the cost and takes up a quarter of the space.

"All up the kitchen cost just under \$3000, including appliances," Mia says. If only all bargains looked this good. **hb**
For stockists see page 147

1 The cupboards were painted with Dulux Super Enamel Semi Gloss in natural white, \$67.95/4 litres, and the walls in Dulux Wash & Wear 101 Semi Gloss Acrylic in natural white, \$58.95/4 litres.

2 The tiny kitchen boasts ample storage, including a hidden compartment on the side of the sink for cleaning products.

3 Extra-deep drawers make the most of every bit of storage space available in the kitchen.



BUDGET BREAKDOWN

microwave/convection oven	\$1000
stovetop	\$1000
cupboards	\$400
benchtops	\$180
paint	\$125
handles	\$65
sink	\$50
flooring	\$30
lighting	\$20
TOTAL	\$2870

