



good taste

This kitchen's secret ingredients? A dash of detective work and a pinch of style

A kitchen with all the glamour of a chic, gourmet restaurant. Who would have thought it possible, considering its former condition? Still, the owner of this city terrace spied the room's potential. Even better, when he ripped out all the old kitchen cupboards he discovered the space was originally a dining room, complete with elegant cornices and arches from an old fireplace.

With things cleaned up and painted a fresh white (Wattyl Orchid White), he designed the new kitchen around the lovely old ceiling features, which helped give it a New York loft apartment feel. To show off the fabulous ceiling, and up the atmosphere, fluoro lights were built into the space above the top cupboards. These not only draw the eye to the ceiling, but make the room seem infinitely taller.

Building the kitchen work area in a straight line along one wall left plenty of space to add dining furniture. The

cabinets, a self-assembly unit from A-Plan Kitchens, are white laminate up top and bitter-chocolate wenge below. To avoid blocking out the light, the top cupboards (50cm taller than normal for extra storage) stop short of the window, which is coated in a filmy laminate to hide an unappealing aspect.

Smart, stainless steel appliances (Westinghouse oven, cooktop and pull-out rangehood) are matched with a shiny steel kickboard and powerpoints, which cost just \$4-\$5 more than regular ones.

The glamorous look continues with Blackbutt timber floors stained Wattyl Dark Wenge, and the light melamine benchtop and shiny glass splashback. And in case you're wondering, the fridge is tucked away at the other end of the unit.

All up, it took about two weeks to cook up this delicious kitchen. And it's already passed the ultimate renovating test: a housewarming for 70 people. **hb**

Magis Centomila table, \$949, Magis Bombo chairs, \$699 each, both ECC Lighting & Living. Marbo lamp, \$1600, Orson & Blake. Primo oil and vinegar bottles, from \$25 each, butter knives, \$20 each, bread knife, \$91, plates, \$171/6-piece set, all Empire. Dualit toaster, \$609, Typhoon chopping block, \$112, paper towel holder, \$39, coffee plunger, \$69.95, all Basic Essentials. Black pots, \$7.50 each, Honeysuckle Garden. For stockists see page 159



AFTER

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

cabinetry (incl installation)	\$4700
splashback	\$1200
appliances (incl sinks/taps)	\$3000
plumbing and electrical	\$800
flooring	\$1200
TOTAL	\$10,900

MAGIC HAPPENS
Keeping the work area and flooring dark, and upper cupboards bright and white, tricks the eye into thinking the room's larger than it is. Subtle textures, like glass and stainless steel, add dimension.