



Centre of attention

This expansive indoor-outdoor kitchen and living space combines a relaxed aesthetic with a show-stopping illuminated surface

In a climate that allows alfresco living most months of the year, it makes sense to open up a home's interiors to fresh air and sunshine. Designers may even go so far as to blur the line between indoors and outdoors completely.

This project by kitchen designer Kim Duffin forms part of a redeveloped home in an inner-city suburb. Duffin says he took the client's initial brief and applied his own vision.

"The design places a dining area, kitchen, appliance pantry, powder room and a large outdoor space at the rear of the home. We wanted to bring all these various elements together in

one large volume in a way that would optimise space and create a connection between all zones.

"The outdoor and indoor areas read as one space, separated only by large bifolding doors and a change in flooring direction. Similar tones and finishes link the two spaces visually."

The kitchen is set to one side of the room, downplaying its presence, with the prep areas out of sight, in the new appliance pantry.

"We were able to reconfigure the rear walls to assimilate the appliance pantry on the right, by the kitchen, and powder room to the left, near the stairs. Both ancillary spaces are hidden

Above left: Created by designer Kim Duffin, this multi-use space benefits from a restrained palette and natural finishes that draw the various areas together. With bifolding doors drawn back, the indoors and outdoors merge. A glass splashback and exterior cladding on the alfresco walls add to the effect.

Above: An appliance pantry and a powder room are set behind cabinet panels at the rear of the room.

Designer: Kim Duffin CKD, CBD, Sublime Architectural Interiors (Sumner Park, Qld)
Cabinetry: Laminex Domain veneer and cabinets painted in gloss to match Laminex Pearl Grey
Countertops: Reconstituted stone in Osprey
Tabletop: Caesarstone in Grey Agate, with energy-efficient LED strip lighting controlled by app for iPhone or iPad
Splashback: Starfire toughened glass in colour Ferric Sheen Metallic
Cabinetry hardware: Blum
Oven, cooktop, dishwasher: Smeg available from Kitchen Things
Rangehood: Qasair
Refrigerator, freezer: Liebherr
Beverage centres: Vintec, available from Kitchen Things
Sink: Clark
Tap: Grohe

Story by Charles Moxham
 Photography by Steve Ryan

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Above: A polished stainless steel plinth supports the table, giving it a floating appearance. Transparent acrylic chairs ensure an unobstructed view of the entire tabletop.

Above right: A high back on the booth seat screens clutter from diners. Perimeter cabinetry in the alfresco living area is a continuation of the indoor perimeter cabinets, but with an all-weather finish.

from view behind doors in the panelling. The refrigerator and freezer are also integrated, to the left of the appliance pantry door.

A window splashback forms a connection to the outdoors and brings additional natural light onto work surfaces. Glass fronts on the upper cabinets also help make the room feel lighter. The long, linear nature of the cabinetry is accentuated by recessed aluminium pulls. The run of cabinets continues outdoors to the alfresco area. While the finished effect is seamless, all-weather finishes have been used outside.

To maximise floor space and downplay its

presence, the island backs onto the booth seat at the head of the dining table. The raised seat back conceals kitchen clutter from diners.

"The Caesarstone tabletop is the centrepiece of the kitchen," says Duffin. "This has a clear acrylic substrate that allows the engineered stone to be side and backlit. LED lighting colours can be matched to any RGB-paint value – the possibilities are almost endless."

As the room is open to a shared driveway, laser-cut aluminium screens bring a degree of privacy. This feature is repeated on the other side the room, by the stairs.



Left: Adroit space-planning optimises flow, connections and floor space. The floor-to-ceiling panels feature mechanisms imported from Japan that allow the doors to pop out before sliding to one side. The niche on the rear wall separates the appliance pantry from the powder room and is home to a handy beverage centre, close to dining and kitchen areas. Recessed handles on the cabinetry accentuate the long, linear design.