

Shooting star

This bold, contemporary kitchen presents tonal and graphic links to a popular Asian icon



Preceding page and above: A custom backpainted glass splashback featuring bamboo plants caters to the clients' love of Asia in this apartment kitchen by interior designer Kim Duffin.

Facing page: This two-tone design celebrates connections and contrast. The green of the island upstand continues as a negative detail under the slender, modern benchtops. Rich cabinet hues – one polished, one matt – set off the wood flooring.

Often a kitchen design is not so much about the individual elements but rather about how they come together – this is particularly true of the material and colour palette.

This sleek kitchen in a riverside apartment replaces a 20-year-old workspace that had suffered from poor connections to the views and adjoining spaces. Designer Kim Duffin removed walls to improve the outlooks from all areas, the kitchen included.

"The owners had spent the past 10 years in Europe and Asia and so wanted an Oriental influence in the new design," says Duffin.

"To achieve this, I designed a custom glass splashback with a bamboo motif. This was laid as two panels, with the shelving and rangehood positioned afterwards. However, to prevent the bamboo green colour from taking over, the splashback evokes these fast-growing, iconic plants in silhouette, while the raised cabinet on the island introduces the appropriate tone.

"The green appears again as a shadowline beneath the benchtops."

Contrast as well as connection features in the design. The green sets off the metallic blue of the perimeter and island base cabinetry.





Above: The reflective cabinetry surfaces and ceiling-height glass splashback optimise a light, airy aesthetic in the reinvented kitchen. Together with the surrounding living spaces, it now enjoys panoramic views to the botanic gardens and river below. Although the apartment is on the 15th floor, shutters were introduced on one side to provide privacy from adjacent high-rises.

At the same time, both colours work with the wood floors and metal appliances. The painted surfaces also offer a play of contrasting finishes; one being a lustrous metallic, the other matt. A slender aluminium detail line runs across the top of the splashback and through the side wall of cabinetry above the refrigerator, offering another linear linking element.

These clean, crisp architectural details are echoed in the brushed stainless steel toe-kick.

"In terms of functionality, the galley-style layout allows the island to be used as a buffet for the nearby living spaces," says Duffin. "The

long island has a conveniently located wine cabinet at one end and the raised front cabinet is home to plates and glassware.

"As one of the owners has a disability, we were asked to set the oversized oven high on the side wall, with an integrated microwave directly above. Everything is in easy reach. In addition, all the cabinetry latches are push-to-open or electronic, again for ease of use by the owner. The handleless look perfectly suits the contemporary aesthetic."


The new dropped ceiling was an integral part of the project. Custom designed by Duffin,


this helps define the workspace visually and at the same time contributes to its functionality.


"In a concrete apartment tower you are often restricted by solid, immovable ceilings that leave no room for services," says the designer. "Introducing this feature provided an easy way to run air conditioning through the kitchen to central vents. It also provided space for the wiring for task lighting over the worksurfaces."

No longer separate rooms, the open-plan kitchen and adjacent living and dining areas are now ideally set up for entertaining. Of equal importance to the owners are the unrestricted

views to the botanic gardens and river while they prep, cook and entertain.

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Above: The raised front cabinet on the island provides storage and shields kitchen clutter from the living spaces. The vibrant green colour calls to mind the colour of bamboo. Apart from a wine cabinet at one end, the island is appliance-free – it is used only for storage and as a buffet counter to serve the living and dining spaces beyond.

*Story by Charles Moxham
Photography by ????????*



Above: The green cabinet on the island offers storage and shields kitchen clutter from the living spaces.



A custom backpainted glass splashback featuring bamboo plants caters to the clients' love of Asia in this apartment kitchen by interior designer Kim Duffin.

Kitchen designer: Kim Duffin, Kim Duffin Designs (Brisbane, Qld)

Kitchen manufacturer: Sublime Architectural Interiors

Cabinetry: 2-pack gloss to match Dulux Dark Door; doors and panels, 2-pack painted to match Dulux Bean Shoot

Hardware: Blum White TandemBox Intivo Softclose Drawer System, from Lincoln Sentry

Kickboards: 150mm adjustable foot system, finished with brushed aluminium laminate

Storage systems: Blum Orgaline cutlery and utensil inserts; Kimberly Dual rubbish bin under sink

Splashback: Digitally printed Starfire toughened glass with bamboo image custom designed by Kim Duffin

Kitchen sink: Oliveri single undermount with drainer tray

Oven: Gaggenau pyrolytic oven

Cooktop: Gaggenau gas cooktop, Gaggenau single gas wok burner

Ventilation: Miele canopy rangehood

Benchtops: Silestone; reconstituted stone in colour Lagoon

Flooring: Existing

Lighting: LED downlights by Sublime Architectural Interiors

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