

Elba dolomite from Artedomus imbues the kitchen with a luxe identity, chosen for its striking cool grey and white composition. With practicality foremost in mind, the family opted to have the benchtops coated in Tuffskin film to minimise staining and etching. The island makes a strong style statement. “The stone top is mitered to create a solid plinth at one end, with the seating area encased in a beautiful Japanese matte white tile – Inax ‘Accordi M’ – from Artedomus,” says Shannen Conway, associate at Heartly. The Fenton & Fenton leather strapping bar stools add warmth. >

Kitchen masterclass

LIGHT WORK

A CALMING PALETTE AND CONSIDERED DESIGN
DETAILS ARE A JOY TO BEHOLD IN THIS KITCHEN

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Here comes the sun
Natural light is queen in this kitchen, courtesy of an elongated skylight, as well as an expansive picture window adjacent to the splashback. “The skylight brings the outside in, allowing natural light directly into the space,” says Mikayla Rose, principal designer at Heartly. “It is purposefully designed to be out of view, so the neat, sharp lines of the plaster intersect with the glazing.”

ARTWORK EMMA LEONARD



Milky shades of white and grey cast a soothing spell in the kitchen of this reborn Californian bungalow in Melbourne's north-east. And to the homeowners, who recently returned to Australia with their three young daughters after six years living in Italy, the undisputed heart of the house is 'bellissima' in every sense of the word. It's just as design studio Heartly intended, with its highly customised approach to the renovation of the entire house – luminous new kitchen definitely included!

"The vision emerged from the owners' plan to create a nurturing, bright and uplifting home for their family," says Heartly director and principal designer Mikayla Rose, who explains that the original space was "dark and disconnected from the main living area".

Claiming a prime spot in the new extension, the sun-dappled cooking domain is now strategically linked to the walk-in pantry, mudroom and

garage. As with any open-plan space, concealed storage is a must. To contrast, a floating display shelf provides visual interest in the relatively minimal space. "The shelf is powder-coated matte white, as is the range hood," says Shannen Conway, associate at Heartly. "Although it's a small detail, it's an important part – allowing the family to display personal art and objects, defining the kitchen as their own."

The cooking zone's intricate yet tranquil colour scheme, highlighted by a sumptuous swathe of Elba dolomite, was guided by the owners' "white on white" brief. "We layered various materials in white and soft grey," explains Shannen. "Custom V-groove panelling was selected to add texture to the palette, with quarter-strength Dulux Natural White chosen for its freshness and warmth."

Tactile and tonal, the space has an uncluttered and practical design, creating a beautiful kitchen that works like a dream for a busy family.

This page: Delicately suspended above the dining table, a curvy Muuto 'Strand' pendant crowns the room. Custom V-groove panelled cabinetry speaks to the heritage of the home and is brought to life in the kitchen's crisp quarter-strength Dulux Natural White two-pack polyurethane joinery. **Opposite:** The butler's pantry is the ultimate in tucked-away storage, with Duropol oiled oak laminate open shelves from Bench Top City.

ARTWORK EMMA LEONARD ACTUAL PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

"THE ELBA STONE WAS USED THROUGHOUT THE HOME, ESTABLISHING A *strong and cohesive* THEME"

SHANNEN CONWAY, ASSOCIATE



Behind the scenes

As many will agree, there can be no such thing as too much storage in the kitchen. And this family-friendly cooking zone, featuring a plethora of behind-closed-doors shelving and drawers, makes it easy to keep clutter at bay. "This is even more important when the kitchen is in an open-plan area and on full display from the living and dining spaces where family and friends gather," says Shannen. >

Beautiful DESIGN

This page: “We wanted to avoid handles wherever possible,” explains Mikayla. “However, for the integrated fridge and freezer, it was important to have a robust handle that works with the appliances.” Made Measure ‘Slimline’ cabinetry handles in a powder-coated White Satin finish were chosen. **Opposite:** As in the butler’s pantry, the mudroom makes use of Duropal oiled oak laminate from Bench Top City.



Social scene
“The bar has been carefully designed to be linked to the kitchen and dining area,” says Shannen. “It provides an opportunity to display personal treasures and belongings. There is also space to store wine, spirits and glasses and, behind the cabinetry doors, there is more storage and an integrated bar fridge.” The tactile oak veneer joinery was custom-stained to match the floorboards.



Source book
Interior design: Heartly, heartly.com.au.
Builder: LVL Group, lvlgroup.com.au.

Mudroom magic
The adjoining mudroom is another secret saviour. This central location “makes it easy to manage returning home with three young children,” says Mikayla. “Groceries can be dropped from the car boot into the walk-in pantry, and family bags and other belongings can be dumped in the mudroom.” Laminex ‘Oyster Grey’ laminate sets a neutral tone in the floor-to-ceiling joinery.



GET THE LOOK
1. ‘Cuba’ woven bar stool in Tan, \$399, Lounge Lovers. 2. ‘Sunday III’ limited-edition print by Marcia Priestley, \$295/30cm x 30cm (unframed), Greenhouse Interiors. 3. Storm Light Grey marble, from \$495/sqm, RMS Marble. 4. Plantino Engineered Oak Regal flooring in Blanc, from \$115.94/sqm, Choices Flooring. 5. ‘Artisan’ 4.7L stand mixer in White, \$1049, Kitchen Aid. 6. ‘Linear’ appliance pull in White, \$169, Lo & Co. 7. Muuto ‘Strand’ pendant, \$1449/large, Living Edge.