

Natural attraction

This modest Melbourne kitchen boasts an abundance of character and charm.

STORY Annika Baker | STYLING Mikayla Rose | PHOTOGRAPHY Dylan James

KITCHEN *design notes*

JOINERY Evenex timber veneer in Deep Grain Oak, Elton Group.

BENCHTOPS Perla Argento marble, POA, Artedomus.

SPLASHBACK INAX 'Yohen Border YBI' tiles, POA, Artedomus.

TAPWARE Yokato kitchen mixer in Roma Bronze, \$1402, Brodware.

APPLIANCES Fisher & Paykel.

LIGHTING Hoop Deep downlights, \$90 each, Dusk Down Up wall light, \$200, and 75 Caliber surface can lights, \$195 each, all Est Lighting.

FURNITURE Raft stools, Great Dane (discontinued).



'Neutral' and 'timeless' were two words that came to interior designer Mikayla Rose's mind when designing this Melbourne kitchen, part of a whole-home renovation. "I wanted to step away from the typical materiality of a white kitchen and use layers to create warmth, visual interest and character," explains the director of Heartly. "There is V-groove panelling, painted brick and handmade tiles – all white – paired with timber veneer, marble and aged bronze. There is very little plain painted plasterboard within the space."

Thoughtful storage and integrated appliances can make a huge difference in making a compact space appear bigger than it really is – this kitchen is a great example of that. "The layout is highly functional with an extraordinary amount of storage for such a small area," says Mikayla. "Critically, the kitchen is also orientated to face the rest of the open-plan space, so the cook can participate in the action or take in views of the rear courtyard while working at the island." The furniture-like timber-veneer cabinetry is the hero of the room, while the Perla Argento marble, used for both benchtops and the splashback, acts as a bridge between the white and wood. "I love how all the elements combined have created such a warm and beautiful yet highly efficient and functional space within the heart of this small home," says Mikayla.

Heartly; www.heartly.com.

