

CITY SLICKER

Combining a predominantly white palette with natural stone and timber makes for a modern classic.

The brief

When the developers of a boutique apartment complex in Melbourne's inner east asked Mikayla Rose from Heartly to design the interiors, they briefed her to create a kitchen scheme that was sophisticated, enduring and practical. The owners of this particular kitchen bought their apartment off the plan. They loved Heartly's design and added a few modifications of their own, including a request for more storage, bespoke pendant lights and black tapware. Measuring 4.685x2.6m, the kitchen is part of an east-facing, open-plan living/dining space with spectacular views of the city skyline and the owners were keen to make the most of this outlook.

✚ The timber-look panelling above the stovetop is a Polytec laminate in Sepia Oak, concealing the rangehood and overhead cupboards. "The warmth of the timber is a critical element in this otherwise cool palette," says Mikayla. "Without it, the space might feel too stark."

The built-in day bed has a lift-up seat for storage. A 1.2m-wide tall cupboard (left of the stovetop) houses an integrated Miele fridge and freezer; a matching cupboard on the other side hides the pantry.

The solution

"Knowing we had concrete ceilings and oak flooring as a backdrop, we developed a pared-back, timeless palette of classic white, timber and marble," says Mikayla, who carefully balanced the shapes and proportions of each material. This contemporary-yet-classic styling was exactly what the apartment owners were seeking: they loved the warmth of the timber combined with the sophistication of natural stone. To maximise storage and views, Mikayla designed a day bed with built-in storage, positioned under the nearby picture window. Practicalities are built-in too, with ample working surfaces, and a layout that allows for easy access and movement.

THE PALETTE

Cool whites warmed with a touch of wood

Carrara
marble
splashback

Timber-look
laminate
panelling

Dulux
Natural
White

The island measures 1x2.6m, with a 1.25mx400mm niche to accommodate the kitchen stools. Its 40mm-thick benchtop, in Caesarstone, has waterfall edges at both ends. A reverse bevel detail on the cupboards underneath the bench allows them to be opened without the need for handles or knobs.

In honed Carrara marble, the splashback echoes the tones of the off-form concrete ceiling (a structural slab poured onto the formwork). "The mix of materials is very harmonious," says Mikayla.

✚ The design brief called for a classic and timeless scheme, which meant white was always going to play a part, says Mikayla. "A white kitchen, done well, never goes out of style."

KITCHEN SPECIAL **H&G**

PROJECT COST
\$35,400
APPROX.

THE DETAILS

White cabinetry Two-pack polyurethane in Dulux Natural White, 30% gloss.

Timber panelling Polytec laminate in Sepia Oak.

Benchtops Caesarstone Pure White, 40mm thick, from \$950/m² installed.

Splashback Carrara marble (honed finish), about \$2000, Corsi & Nicolai.

Sinks Franke 'Kubus KBG 110-34' Fraganite Onyx undermount sinks, \$799 each, Renovation Kingdom.

Kitchen mixer Gessi 'Just Pullout' sink mixer in Matt Black, \$1444, E&S.

Cupboard handles 'Ledge' steel-lip pulls in Matt White, \$25/each, Castella.

Kitchen stools Hay 'About A Stool AAS 38' metal stools in Black, \$271 each, Cult.

Pendant lights Handmade ceramic 'Dome' lights in Slate, \$582 each, Mud Australia.

Flooring White Smoked European Oak, 260mm-wide boards, from \$142/lineal m, Royal Oak Floors.

Stovetop and oven 4-burner gas cooktop and oven, Miele.

Fridge Integrated fridge and freezer, Miele.

Dishwasher Fully integrated, Miele. ▶

Heartly; heartly.com.au

Photography by Martina Gemmola. Kitchen built by WAF Constructions.