

# RECIPES FOR SUCCESS

Clever layouts and fresh palettes produce fab results as three kitchens go from stale to stunning, writes *Elizabeth Wilson*.

RENO 1  
BLUES  
FEST



## BEFORE

Located on the ground floor of a two-storey 1970s townhouse in Melbourne, this tiny kitchen was in the doldrums. Measuring just 3.7x2.4m, it had been updated only eight years earlier but the colour choices – grey laminate cabinetry with brown splashback and floor tiles (above) – made it feel even smaller and darker than it was. The homeowner turned to interior designer Camilla Molders, seeking a fresh new look to lighten and brighten the kitchen, plus more storage and a better flow between the kitchen and living spaces.

**THE DETAILS** *Cabinetry* Two-pack polyurethane cabinetry with Shaker profile, painted Dulux Deck Crew (blue) and Dulux Lexicon (white), and timber open shelves, CabinetSmith. *Benchtop* Caesarstone surface in Raw Concrete, from \$500/m<sup>2</sup> (installed). *Splashback tiles* TTS029 ceramic tiles in Satin White (135x400mm), \$110/m<sup>2</sup>, Tiento Tiles. *Floor tiles* Entic Designs CLA\_UN\_18 encaustic tiles in custom colourway (200x200mm), \$280/m<sup>2</sup>, Ajar. *Sink* 'Lago' one-and-one-third bowl inset sink, \$972, Abey. *Tap* A50.08.PL mixer in Brushed Chrome with porcelain handle, \$993, Astra Walker. **APPLIANCES** *Dishwasher* Existing 45cm dishwasher, Bosch Home Appliances. *Oven* 60cm pyrolytic oven, Neff. *Cooktop* 60cm four-burner gas cooktop, Bosch Home Appliances. *Rangehood* GFI 632 60cm undermount hood, Scholtès. *Camilla Molders Design, Middle Park, Victoria; (03) 9699 6641 or camillamolders.com.au.*

## AFTER

Camilla used a lively combination of white and blue to replace the grey and brown. "It's a small space and lighter colours visually open up the room," says Camilla. The choice of blue echoes splashes of colour in the adjacent living space. "Blue was the best colour to connect the kitchen with the rest of the house. An all-white scheme in this space would have been bland." Lower cabinets are painted Dulux

Deck Crew and teamed with crisp white subway tiles on the splashback, Caesarstone Raw Concrete benchtops and floor tiles in soft grey, blue and white. "It's a classic design, but the colour makes it fresh," says Camilla. The white overhead cabinets, along with the splashback tiles, act as reflectors, bouncing natural light around. Open shelving in chocolate-stained solid timber adds visual interest and depth, and also ties in with floorboards nearby. ▶

'THIS IS A WARM BLUE WITH RED UNDERTONES; COMBINED WITH FRESH WHITE, IT DOESN'T OVERPOWER THE OVERALL DESIGN.' *Camilla Molders, interior designer*



Photography by Martina Gemmola.

## PROJECT COSTS

*Cabinetry by CabinetSmith* \$20,000

*Labour (removing old kitchen, flooring, tiling, plumbing, etc)* \$10,000

*Floor tiles* \$3500

*Splashback tiles* \$700

*Tap* \$993

*Appliances* \$5000

**TOTAL COST:**  
ABOUT \$40,000