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# EVERGREEN *style*

A MASTERCLASS IN FUNCTIONALITY AND FORM LED TO THIS SYDNEY KITCHEN TRANSFORMING INTO AN ENTERTAINER'S DREAM

Words BRITTANY SMITH Styling JODIE GIBBONS  
& GEMMA DEL VECCHIO Photography BRIGID ARNOTT

When the last of their three adult children flew the nest, homeowners Steve and Kathleen decided it was time for a refresh of their North Shore Sydney home. "They entertain every weekend," says Kate Hardy of Cloth + Stone Designs. But when she came on board for the renovation in 2022, the kitchen wasn't meeting their needs. With a stark contrast between white cabinetry and black benchtops, the interior pulled focus away from a gorgeous cityscape visible through the windows. Functionally, Kate says, "the layout was very inefficient and they had no rangehood so cooking smells were getting into the rest of the house."

As such, the creation of three distinct zones, for food prep, cooking and clean-up, was an important first step. The island also played a central role in Kate's plans. "They often had people around the island while they were cooking so we wanted seating there," she explains of the inclusion of Luumo 'Nerd' bar stools in Oak. Moving the cooking zone to an outside wall meant the rangehood exhaust could connect to an outside space, instead of flooding the home with steam and smells.

Far from taking attention away from the views of Sydney's Harbour Bridge and Opera House, Kate enhanced the indoor-outdoor connection with a palette inspired by nature. Blackbutt veneer on the island panelling is an ode to the owners' love of timber and complements the existing spotted gum flooring. Shaker-style cabinetry finished in Dulux Tranquil reflects the greenery outside while the Moroccan zellige tile splashback from Surface Gallery adds a textural element, with light reflecting off the glossy finish.

Now an entertainer's dream, this kitchen is beloved by its owners. "It reflects them and their personalities," says Kate. "When you put that much thought into a space, you connect so much better with it because it's really designed around you and the way you live."

## *Designer's tip*

*The kitchen was a humble size and, with lots of overhead cabinets, Kate was aware that she had to create a visual illusion to avoid overcrowding. "We used fluted glass on the cabinets which is lovely in a small space because it just breaks up the cabinet-heavy look," says Kate. "It brings that extra dimension."*

### *Crucial details*

*A favourite feature is the abundance of easy-to-access storage. "There's even secret hidey holes where I can stash the kids' toys," says Corrine of the sectioned storage zones, including an inner-drawer pantry. The couple were able to incorporate their existing Fisher & Paykel fridge into the layout, teamed with a new Siemens wall oven, cooktop and integrated dishwasher. >*



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**Source book**

*Interior design:* Kate Hardy, Cloth + Stone Designs,  
clothandstonedesigns.com.au.

*Joinery:* Janz Designs, janzdesigns.com.

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*Kate Hardy, interior designer*

