FOOD & FRIENDS SPECIAL

NZ HOUSE & GARDEN

INSPIRING HOME LIFE

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MIX IT UP

Our dishy ideas for a souped-up kitchen run from *retro modern* styling to a taste of *safari lodge*, seasoned with *objets and art* – and don't forget that twist of lemon!

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PHOTOGRAPHS: KALLAN MACLEOD

THIS PAGE Designer Celia Visser helped Keith and Liz Oliver relocate and reimagine their Remuera, Auckland kitchen in bright and breezy white with accents of Resene 'Golden Dream': splashes of happiness in a pristine space (see more of this kitchen on the following pages).

FACT FILE

Cabinetry and walls: Resene 'Alabaster'
Yellow accents: Resene 'Golden Dream'
Oven, induction hob, refrigeration, dishwasher: Miele
Ventilation: Gaggenau
Benchtops: Corian 'Glacier White'
Kitchen sink: Hafele Blanco Subline 500-U Silgranit
Tapware: Gessi Goccia Tall mixer, Plumbline
Light: Tolsbod 120 Yellow Blossom pendant by Louis Poulsen
Bar stools: Kalia, Studio Italia

Celia Visser, Celia Visser Design

HUB WITH A JOYFUL SPIRIT

The two metal birds of prey that soar above the dining table in Keith and Liz Oliver's open-plan kitchen/dining area were a wedding gift. To the couple, they are a daily reminder of togetherness and their marriage. And teamwork also played an important role in redeveloping their Remuera kitchen.

When the Olivers moved here from the country, the kitchen in this contemporary home was located in a completely different area. Following the advice of designer Celia Visser, the couple chose to convert a former living room into their new entertaining hub. "Relocating the kitchen gave it a seamless flow to the outdoors and the pool," says Celia.

White cabinetry in Resene 'Alabaster' lends the space a bright and breezy feel, but Celia steered clear of off-the-rack style with no personality. "We wanted to add some whimsy," she says.

For the most part, these are subtle design elements that play with shadow and light. Mirrored toekicks mean the island bench appears to hover off the floor; similarly, its top becomes a floating slab suspended above the bulk of the bench. Lighting in the cabinetry makes the satin-white surfaces sparkle, especially at night. A mirrored splashback reflects the tropical greenery of the great outdoors. "Even with your back to the garden, you feel part of it," says Celia.

Other points of difference are far more overt. Cue the impossible-to-miss accents of yellow. The sunny tones of Resene 'Golden Dream' are splashes of happiness in this pristine space. "I like a pure, primary yellow," says Celia, who used the shade in surprising ways. "We framed the inside of the hob area and, for fun, put it inside some of the cabinetry." A custom-made dining table with a Corian top also stands proud with its own twist of yellow. "Using it on the turned legs was a big decision – but it really works." The legs are repeated on the extension of the island bench.

The yin to the yang of all that white cabinetry is the dark-stained oak flooring, which links to the rest of the home. This kitchen has a joyful spirit that challenges convention and is a wonderful space to socialise in.

THESE PAGES The turned legs on the extended island bench and custom-made dining table in Keith and Liz Oliver's Remuera kitchen (see also previous page) offered the chance to introduce a traditional element amid the glossy white styling. Liz and designer Celia Visser added a touch of pizazz by picking them out in pure, primary yellow, along with the hob linings, pendants and other elements.

PHOTOGRAPHS: KALLAN MACLEOD

HOMEOWNER LIZ OLIVER

HOW DID THE YELLOW HIGHLIGHTS COME ABOUT? Celia and I agreed on a kitchen that had a bit of pizazz, but didn't want the accents to dominate or date the room. Yellow won out because it is a happy colour; we chose a clean, bright tone. Celia wanted to introduce some tradition into an otherwise modern kitchen, so the table legs and the legs on the bench are turned timber – painted yellow, of course!

TELL US MORE ABOUT THE SCULPTURAL BIRDS "FLYING" THROUGH THE SPACE. The steel hawks are very important to my husband and me as they symbolise our relationship. We were married in Queenstown 15 years ago and asked our guests to contribute to an art fund in lieu of gifts. The birds are flying in harmony, which is something I believe we do as a couple.

WHAT WAS WORKING WITH A PROFESSIONAL KITCHEN DESIGNER LIKE? Celia led me with a firm hand, but was always respectful of my tastes. She has a fantastic eye for colour and form. Notice the negative space beneath the benchtop, which is finished with mirrors? Another stroke of genius was the mirrored splashback, which captures our wonderful leafy outlook. The layout is an absolute joy to work in – she seems to have thought of everything. ?

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