

KITCHEN TRENDS



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colours & shapes



Balanced diet

Whether it is cool stainless steel against warm veneer or slender counters teamed with bold cabinetry, contrast makes for a lively, enduring aesthetic

Natural reflection

This reinvented entertainer's kitchen combines sleek, modern surfaces with nods to the classic charm of the rest of the home

Preserving paper and these pages: This revamped kitchen keeps many functional elements – a freestanding island, under-cabinet microwave – out of sight behind the wall of cabinetry at left. The cabinetry black has been built up to the full height of the angled ceiling, partly to accommodate the room's generous vertical proportions. Bar stools pick up on the colors of the two-tone design. A black leather sofa in the nearby living area makes another connection.

Treatment of materials can be all-important in a kitchen remodel. Wood, for example, might evoke a home's classic origins, contrast crisply with contemporary elements, or with a different treatment, become a modern finish in its own right. Then there is the green, reversible side of wood – a plus in any sustainable design. The owners of this remodeled kitchen had asked designer Celia Visser to transform their cramped galley workspace into a kitchen-living area that would preserve the integrity of their home. They wanted a contemporary look, but with a retro touch – and a green focus.

"To begin with, a wall and window were removed – effectively doubling the available area. The kitchen was then reoriented, with a laundry door relocated and a central island introduced. Built-in elements helped create an easy flow from the living room to the laundry."

Now on full show from the living area, the kitchen has been given a material palette that hints at the past but looks to the future.

"Wood accents were already a feature, with Rains skirting boards running throughout the house, and the look veneer surfaces and bamboo floorboards respond to this."



Architect: Mike Peubikon ANZI, Mike Peubikon Architecture (Puckland)
Interior designer and kitchen designer: Cole Visser NABA, DINC, Cole Visser Design
Splashback: Paracore
Cabinetry: Laminex Urbane Teak veneer and P3P Paracore
Hardware: Blum
Storage systems: Hettich
Benchtop: Su Create
Oven: Miele
Cooktop: dishwasher: Aiko
Ventilator: Grell
Refrigeration: Miele
Waste disposal: InSinkErator
Flooring: Samba planks

Story by Charles Mocham
Photography by Jamie Cobeldick

Top right and far right: Opening the fully integrated pantry brings the wall of black acrylic to life. Adjacent areas have the same wood veneer.

Above right: The glass cabinetry catches the rangehood in reflection.

Above far right and facing page: Full drawer liners, dome pulls and a new veneer countertop all call to mind a 1970s-style kitchenette. The coffee centre was another specific request from the owners.



The rich veneer offers a modern twist, in terms of texture – the Urbane Teak veneer has a rough, tactile surface, in contrast to the smooth stainless steel and black acrylic panels.

"The gloss, reflective black acrylic surfaces make up the other half of the two-tone cabinet look," says Visser. "While the look is very up-to-the-minute, this material has been favoured in hospitals for years for its durability and anti-microbial properties – characteristics that will also benefit this family and entertaining space."

Besides the play between tone, texture and reflection, the kitchen also makes a statement

with the shapes of the cabinetry and island. Visser says the rectangle shapes of the cabinets are accentuated by their reflections.

"We also played with dimensions to create visual interest. For example, on the island, the stainless steel is a practical work surface. On the breakfast-bar side, the top is finished in warm, approachable veneer. However, the edge of the stainless steel reappears below this – in the same gauge as seen on the side counter."

[video](#)

