

CALM & COLLECTED

GOOD PLANNING AND GREAT STORAGE ALLOW THIS BUSY KITCHEN, DINING AND LIVING SPACE TO MAINTAIN A COOL FACADE.

PHOTO: ANA HENNER STYLING: PHOENIX DESIGN GROUP



INTERIOR DESIGNER and architect Melissa of Meme Design was always going to live in an Edwardian-era home with period features and an open-plan cooking and entertaining space — and she and her husband James found exactly that eight years ago. But the existing kitchen, with its dated layout, lack of storage, orange-toned floorboards and non-structural masonry walls, had to go. A walnut stain was used to tone down the bright floors and the masonry disappeared with them, with a more timeless look in place, the couple spent the next four years refining their renovation.

Melissa planned the 8 x 8m space to the millimetre. The look has colour cues from the new walnut floors and the Walnut Crested white walls. The kitchen, dining and living zones were composed as a united whole with repetitive proportions and continuous lines, resulting in a sophisticated space Melissa managed the project herself — a constant juggle of budget (she and James could stretch their budget to include a few creature comforts pieces).

The family has now grown to include three-year-old Gus and one-year-old Amber, yet the stylish multi-use space is more functional than ever. “There’s a sense of control,” says Melissa. “At the end of the day, when the small people have gone to bed, everything slots away and it’s peaceful again.”

Colour The perfectly balanced composition features a warm, stained Tasmanian oak island bench that replicates the proportions of the Euxine dining table. The island is equidistant from the cooking and the table, while the high, steel-beamed window synchronises with the bespoke rectangular and allows in northern light without compromising on privacy.





Design The tall cabinets are only as deep as a dinner plate, but they can still fit in piles of crockery, the coffee machine and a hidden desk above (right) with the laptop and sound system. The artwork above (left) is by David Bond.



Timothy Scuderie uses lots to optimize every little space! Says Melanie: "The island includes tall drawers for crockery, space for appliances and even a drawer that is equipped with a power point for the toaster."

There are no loud statement-makers in this open-plan kitchen, living and dining room, but rather a harmony of understated choices: "With three functions going on in a single space, we didn't want one dominating the others," explains Melanie.



At only 10 metres long, this 2017 A-Grade space fits such a busy lifestyle full-on, with two walk-in chillers, a built-in coffee machine and a hidden desk. There's more than enough room for people to flow in and out.

"We love how well the kitchen functions, despite its size" – Melanie



Four years on, for the splashback, Melanie opted for powder-coated white aluminium cladding. Against the wall, the island top is just a subtle shadow.

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Appliances (Cooktop, oven, dishwasher, fridge/freezer, boiler and pellet)	
Cabineering (Furniture, Woods, Joinery)	\$22,000
Doors and windows (Insulate doors and windows plus engagement and installation, Garage Engineering)	\$4000
Flats (Touch-up only)	\$2000
Furniture (Dining table, chairs, bar stools, side chairs with Ecolite bases, Living Edge, Tall TV table, MAP International)	\$13,900
Lighting (Panic Room, Flex 240, light, fixtures)	\$3000
Painting	\$2000
Plumbing, electrical and plumbing	\$4000
Topcase (TV, tap, Vibe)	\$2000

Total **\$51,700***

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