



KITCHENS:  
**HIDDEN  
TREASURES**

THERE'S A BUTLER'S PANTRY TO SUIT  
EVERY KIND OF COOK. WE HELP YOU  
FIND YOUR PERFECT MATCH

*Words* **KATE BARBER**

**F**or most of us, having a butler's pantry is a dream come true. These secret helpers serve as a peak functional space just off the kitchen, yet while they often might be hidden treasures, there is no reason why they can't make a style statement and be designed to suit your family's needs perfectly. We've searched far and wide to find a collection of stunning butler's pantries to match every style and personality. Plus, top kitchen designers and experts share their insider tips for recreating these looks in your own home.

*Style and substance combine in this kitchen by Zephyr and Stone that features Polytec thermolaminated door and drawer fronts in Classic White Matt.*



**THE DESIGN LOVER**

"This space has a classic coastal style with relaxed and uncomplicated colours and finishes paired with seamless, contemporary design," says Ania Forster, creative director of Zephyr and Stone, the firm that designed this butler's pantry. The colour of the Polytec cabinetry in Natural Oak Ravine is reflected in the flooring, which features Honeywood tiles from Ace Stone + Tiles. "It has the warmth of timber but the practicality and wear of tiles," says Ania. Above the Quantum Quartz benchtop in Alpine White, the 'Unios Orbit Plus' wall light from Lights Lights Lights adds a decorative touch. "It creates a beautiful atmosphere by night," says Ania. Even better, with the floor-to-ceiling door, any mess or clutter can be quickly hidden if unexpected guests happen to pop by for a visit.

**+ DESIGNER NOTES**

*Don't be afraid to mix up surfaces. "The butler's pantry cabinetry was designed to contrast with the kitchen," says Ania. "It has a combination of the same finishes but in different applications. The spaces still fit harmoniously together. It works because it's the same finishes repeated."* >

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE) MINDI COOKE



### THE ENTERTAINER

The highlight of this zone is the ceiling-high open shelving with a custom-made ladder to reach the top shelves. “It’s easier to find and access everything,” says the designer Dominique McAdam of Provincial Kitchens Home. “It’s so practical and aesthetically pleasing.” There is also plenty of space for appliances on the Smartstone benchtop in Calacatta Blanco. A platter rack is a handy addition. “Platter racks are great as they hold large pieces that are difficult to get to if stacked on top of one another,” says Dominique. A dishwasher and sink are also housed here.

#### + DESIGNER NOTES

Use handles in a butler’s pantry design for extra pizzazz. “Handles add a bit of bling and should always match the tapware chosen,” says Dominique. Here, the handles on the drawers are polished nickel but you could also use chrome to recreate this look in your home.

## “INCORPORATE OPEN SHELVING FOR DISPLAYING TREASURED ITEMS SUCH AS COOKBOOKS, PLANTS, BOWLS OR VASES”

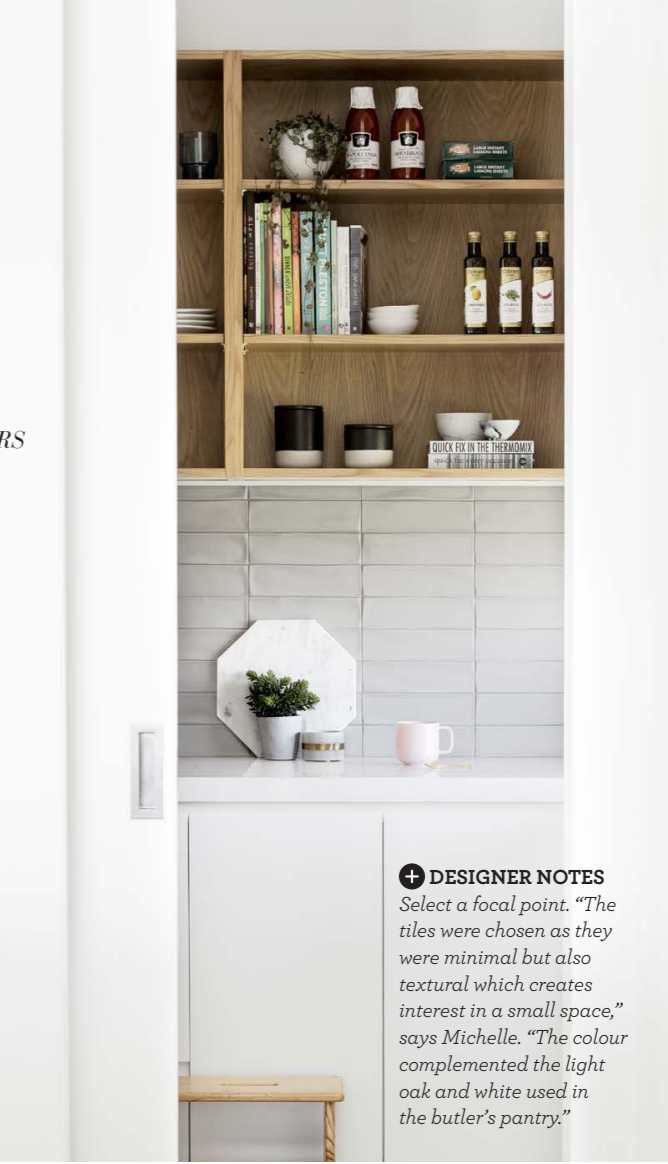
~ MICHELLE HART, INTERIOR STYLIST, BASK INTERIORS

### THE COOK

Hidden behind a sliding door in this kitchen (right), lies a modern butler’s pantry. “The aim was to create a minimal space that was practical and felt warm and homely,” says Michelle Hart, interior stylist at Bask Interiors, who helped the owners select finishes and colours. “The client is a keen cook and was after a space that would be functional and practical to store appliances and dishes, a spot to make coffee and tea, as well as for clearing away dishes and simple food prepping.” It’s relatively small but still has space for a Zip hot water tap, an extra dishwasher and plenty of storage. The warm white Caesarstone benchtop in Frosty Carrina and 2-pac cabinetry in Dulux Natural White are a perfect match for the Polytec Woodmatt oak shelves, while the chic and textural Ceramique Nuage tiles by Portobello are from Perini Tiles.



PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE FROM TOP) MARTINA GEMMOLA, RYAN LINNEGAR (OPPOSITE) SUE STUBBS



#### + DESIGNER NOTES

Select a focal point. “The tiles were chosen as they were minimal but also textural which creates interest in a small space,” says Michelle. “The colour complemented the light oak and white used in the butler’s pantry.”

### THE COLLABORATIVE CREATOR

With a traditional country feel, this stunning butler’s pantry designed and built by NSW’s Cadence & Co features a warm-toned timber benchtop to match the flooring. “Wooden benchtops have a beautiful aesthetic thanks to their natural beauty,” says Kate McGlone, showroom design lead at Winning Appliances. “You can achieve a variety of looks to complement your kitchen with the use of finish products, such as timber oils and sealers, which vary in gloss levels.” There are also a number of classic styles on display, including the Shaker-style cabinetry, traditional cornices and skirting boards and cup pull handles. The openness of the area allows for many people to be in the space at the same time. “It’s designed with the look and feel of togetherness, which inspires collaborative cooking,” says Kate. “It’s a beautiful environment to connect with those special to you.”

#### + DESIGNER NOTES

Keep colour consistent throughout, even on your splashback. “A timeless neutral colour palette works for this country-style butler’s pantry beautifully,” says Kate. “You can achieve a similar look in your kitchen with the use of pre-finished board or custom hand-painted cabinetry.” >

THE COCKTAIL MAKER

With an understated elegance, this space (right) has a luxury hotel feel and is positioned between the kitchen and outdoor entertaining area. A Fisher & Paykel wine cabinet sits below the Natural Limestone benchtop in Portland Grey from Ace Stone + Tiles, while glasses remain within easy reach. “The benchtop was predominantly chosen for aesthetics and requires more maintenance and care than some manufactured options,” says Ania Forster of Zephyr and Stone, the firm that designed the butler’s pantry and kitchen. “The woodgrain dark oak laminate joinery and fluted glass door insert create balance and contrast with the otherwise mostly flat surfaces in this space.” Nextone tiles in Grey from Ace Stone + Tiles provide a low-maintenance flooring option and continue into the outside area to create a seamless connection between the different zones.

+ DESIGNER NOTES

For a sophisticated and luxurious look, select a monochromatic palette and make sure nothing dominates. “Stick to a minimal colour scheme in muted tones rather than vibrant colours,” says Ania. “Repeat finishes such as your benchtop as a splashback for a seamless aesthetic.”



+ DESIGNER TIP  
Don't be afraid to mix and match different kinds of textures and materials within the same space in the kitchen. “Use timber for warmth, painted surfaces for some softness on the eye and then some glass for a bit of reflection,” explains Tamsyn.

“IDENTIFY THE APPLIANCES YOU USE DAILY AND CREATE THE SPACE AROUND THEM”

~ TAMSYN BOWREN, PARTNER AND HEAD OF INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE, NEWMAN ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

THE ORGANISER

If you’re someone who likes to tuck away the inevitable kitchen clutter, then this butler’s pantry (left) is for you. “The client wanted a kitchen that didn’t feel ‘kitcheny’ so the pantry was a way for us to hide all the appliances without compromising on the functionality of day-to-day cooking,” says Tamsyn Bowren, partner and head of interior architecture at Newman Architecture and Design. “This space also connects you to the scullery where all the washing up and cleaning is done.” The oak benchtop, open shelf and wall have a dark oil sealer to reflect the nature that surrounds the home, while the matt sprayed cupboard fronts and bar handles add to its modern feel. The steel-framed glass-fronted cupboard has been painted black with a clear glazing, offering an arty effect. “Our client wanted a display of sorts for all her collected crockery pieces,” says Tamsyn. “This was the perfect place to create a bit of a story.”



THE MINIMALIST

This modern butler’s pantry has clean lines and neutral tones yet also plays with texture. “It has a mix of two different cabinetry types, two different benchtop materials and custom metal pantry doors that feel harmonious yet striking,” says Kari Arendsen, founder and design principal of Intimate Living Interiors, who created this space. It is also perfect for her client’s busy family. “The open shelving houses all of their daily food pantry needs and made the shelves not only beautiful but highly functional,” says Kari. Low drawers also mean their young children can access snacks easily.

+ DESIGNER NOTES

Think beyond the functional when styling your butler’s pantry by using vignettes of your special dishes. “The glass-fronted cupboard frames the organised assortment of minimalist accessories and glassware, creating an elegant and refined focal point,” says Kate McGlone of Winning Appliances.

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) JIM BRADY (OPPOSITE FROM TOP RIGHT) LOUISE DUCHE, WARREN HEATH/BUREAUX

