

EDITOR'S LETTER

KITCHEN CAPERS

I'm redoing my kitchen. Actually, I'm renovating my whole house, but that's a story for another editor's letter. Right now my focus is on the heart of my home, where I love to spend time cooking, pottering and entertaining. Currently, the space is perfectly functional and attractive, having been updated before we bought the house a few years ago, but I've been dreaming of a bigger fridge, a range cooker and a lot more bench space. Measuring up and choosing appliances was the easy part, but what I didn't expect was how tricky it would be to settle on the materials palette. Marble or composite stone benchtops? White, grey or coloured joinery? There are so many combinations, I've changed my mind about five times already. I have four paint-colour swatches taped to cupboard doors, flooring samples shoved in out-of-the-way corners and various pieces of stone positioned just so, to see how they catch the light at different times of the day. How timely that our annual *HB* kitchens special is featured in this issue!

If you're in a similar situation to me, either starting from scratch or tweaking the space you already have, you'll love our 2021 kitchen trends report from page 139. We feature page after page of real-life kitchens, complete with floorplans, design advice and what to buy to steal the styles. Not touching your kitchen right now? Elsewhere in the issue, we cover small storage and all the clever ways you can clear the clutter (p118), a designer's guide to creating an impressive entryway (p104) and how to choose the perfect bathroom basin (p111). Plus, our usual round-up of incredibly beautiful homes to inspire your own decorating projects.

I'll keep you posted with how I go with my kitchen. And which scheme I eventually settle on. Right now I'm favouring joinery in Dulux Silver Tea Set with a Caesarstone Calacatta Nuvo benchtop and gorgeous wide floorboards in French Grey by Royal Oak Floors. But we'll see next week.

Elle

ELLE LOVELOCK, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Get in touch with me on Instagram @ellelovelock



COOK ZONES pg 139

Discover what's trending in kitchens this year and beyond.



WEATHERED BEAUTY pg 36

Coast meets country in our decorating story this month.



COVER LOOK

OUR COVER THIS MONTH SHOWCASES WHAT EVERYONE KEEPS CALLING THE 'DREAM KITCHEN'. FRESH, LIGHT AND BRIGHT, WITH METAL AND TIMBER ACCENTS TO ANCHOR THE LOOK, IT'S A SPACE THAT'S UNIVERSALLY APPEALING. TO SEE MORE ANGLES AND DETAILS, FLIP TO PAGE 168.

Photography: Alex Reinders

ENTRYWAYS: GRAND OPENING

SET THE TONE FOR YOUR HOME WITH A WELCOMING ENTRYWAY THAT'S AS PRACTICAL AS IT IS BEAUTIFUL

Words ANNA McCLELLAND



A runner or rug defines an entryway, as seen here, while providing acoustic insulation and a soft touch underfoot. "A lightweight flat-weave design is easy to vacuum and clean," says interior designer Kelly Donougher.

The humble hallway often gets overlooked in the decorating process, but consider this: it provides the very first impression of your home. "There is nothing better than opening the door to a beautifully styled entryway," says interior designer Kelly Donougher of 13 Interiors. "It creates a beautiful feeling as you open the door to your guests." As your everyday point of entry and exit, it's also a space you want to function well. So much more than simply a way to get from one door to another, good hallway and entryway design hinges on clever details and design elements that guide the eye into the heart of your home. Read on for expert tips on how to make a memorable first impression.

FURNISH WITH FLAIR

Look to slimline, multi-purpose pieces such as a striking cabinet or console table with drawers to keep your hallway from looking cramped. "A shallow table of 30-40cm is generally best so it doesn't become an obstruction," notes Simone Rose, manager of Xavier Furniture. A cabinet such as the one below (try the Maxim Parquet Herringbone Sideboard Console from Living By Design) will neatly house everyday items including shoes, shopping bags, umbrellas or dog leads, but baskets beneath a table are an attractive, more relaxed, alternative. If you have ample space, a chair in tones that complement your palette (as seen opposite) will have aesthetic impact and tick the box for function, too.

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) THE PALM CO/CADENCE & CO. (OPPOSITE) STELLA ROTGER/RBA. ARTWORKS (THIS PAGE) COCO REPUBLIC. (OPPOSITE) ARTIST UNKNOWN



+ DESIGNER NOTES

In this contemporary entryway by Cadence & Co, the styling makes for a gracious greeting. The sprawling blooms of a dried bouquet echo the patina of the cabinet, while a vibrant piece of art refreshes the scene. "Whether it be a feature pendant, your favourite artwork or a beautiful console, invest in a special piece for your home's entry," says Joumana Sukari, of Sukari Interior Design. >

BE FLOORED

“This is a high-traffic area so you need to consider durability,” says interior designer Tess Mathews of TM Design Studio. “If you opt for a tiled floor, a matt finish or patterned tile will conceal dirt and general wear and tear well.” Flooring doesn’t have to be purely practical; a feature tile, could take the place of a statement runner, or timber laid in a herringbone pattern can provide an elegant point of difference. “Just changing the direction can create a huge wow factor,” says Kelly Donougher of 13 Interiors.

+ DESIGNER NOTES

Architectural details such as VJ panelling up the design ante without taking up precious real estate (here, they’re painted in a warm and creamy white, try Dulux Antique White USA). VJ panelling is easy to install and is an instant way to transform your space. In this light and spacious entry by Cortney Bishop Design, their classic look partners perfectly with the old-world charm of the two-tone floor and timber bench.



+ DESIGNER NOTES

A long hallway, awash with natural light, is the perfect place to display a gallery of artworks or treasured photographs that will make you smile every time you walk into your home. Try choosing a theme for a row of images, presented in frames that blend with your colour scheme.



LIGHT SHOW

For an entry that elicits gasps from visitors, you can’t go past eye-catching light fixtures. This is an area where it pays to go big. Small spaces benefit from a single pendant, while longer halls can take a duo (left, get the look with the Talia Pendant 35 in Antique Brass from Da Voluce Lighting Studio) or even a trio. “The general rule of thumb is that the pendant light should be a minimum of 210cm off the floor and 120cm from the widest part of the pendant to any surrounding walls,” says designer Joumana.

“THERE IS ALMOST ALWAYS ROOM FOR *decorative* LIGHTING IN AN ENTRYWAY, BE IT QUITE *elaborate* OR MORE PARED-BACK”

~ TESS MATHEWS, TM DESIGN STUDIO

SHOW STOPPERS

Sometimes less is more in a hallway; select one or two scene-stealing features or pieces to give a glimpse of what’s to come and create an entrance to stop guests in their tracks. “Use this space to reflect who you are and your design aesthetic,” advises Joumana. If budget and room allows, factor in a built-in feature that’s a pure design moment. In this cathedral-like entryway (right), an arched recess in the wall showcases an elegant seat with curved lines that highlight the shapes in the room. Candle sconces on either side enhance the sense of the sacred, while a burst of greenery enlivens the area.

+ DESIGNER NOTES

Wall sconces mounted at eye level deliver drama. “You can have a lot of fun with unusual and whimsical sconces made from different materials such as alabaster or chain, or even multidirectional lighting that plays with shadows against the wall,” Joumana says. Check out the range of wall sconces at Beacon Lighting, for similar. >

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE FROM TOP) THE PALM CO/CADENCE & CO. MALLAZIMA/MICHELE JOHNSON DESIGNS (OPPOSITE) KATIE CHARLOTTE PHOTOGRAPHY/CORTNEY BISHOP DESIGN. ARTWORK (OPPOSITE) ARTIST UNKNOWN



SERENE SYMMETRY

Not a feature is out of place or proportion in this elegant entryway from Armadillo (right), centred by a classic console with crafted legs. “A hall table with curved edges is ideal as there are no square corners to catch your clothing,” notes Simone Rose, manager of Xavier Furniture. Flanking the console, stand a duo of cane occasional chairs that, in harmony with the Armadillo Nook River Ticking Stripe rug and golden tones in the parquetry floor, paint a picture of cool sophistication. Twin windows, with striped curtains reflect the rug, let light flood in and make this a scene worth framing.

+ DESIGNER NOTES

If a sleek console doesn't offer enough storage for your family's needs, consider options such as built-in recessed cabinetry. “Consider how you want to use the space and consider options such as discreet storage behind full-height closed doors, or a built-in seating area for the kids to get prepped for school,” suggests interior designer Tess Mathews of TM Design Studio. “Too much clutter can be distracting to the eye so keep it to the everyday essentials.”



“WHEN SELECTING furniture, THINK ABOUT HOW YOU WILL USE THE PIECE. DO YOU need A DRAWER FOR KEYS OR A CUPBOARD TO KEEP YOUR HANDBAG OUT OF SIGHT?”

~ SIMONE ROSE, XAVIER FURNITURE

COLOUR CUES

The entryway or hallway can be the ideal part of your home to showcase colour (left), but first factor in the size of the space you're working with. “I would suggest avoiding dark colours [in a hallway] as they can make narrow spaces feel narrower,” cautions interior designer Tess Mathews. “If you want [to use] a contrasting colour on walls, break it up with white skirtings and cornices and opt for lighter-coloured flooring.” Another option is to try a two-tone palette split by a dado (or chair) rail. “This will add colour, depth and contrast without looking too heavy,” Tess guides. Panelling below the dado rail also makes for an interesting feature, and can be painted to suit your palette.

+ DESIGNER NOTES

Wallpaper is another winning way to make a statement, creating a jewel of an entrance. “Using graphic wallpaper adds an element of surprise,” says Joumana. “If you prefer a neutral palette, a textural wallpaper or Venetian plaster application adds interest while remaining classic.”

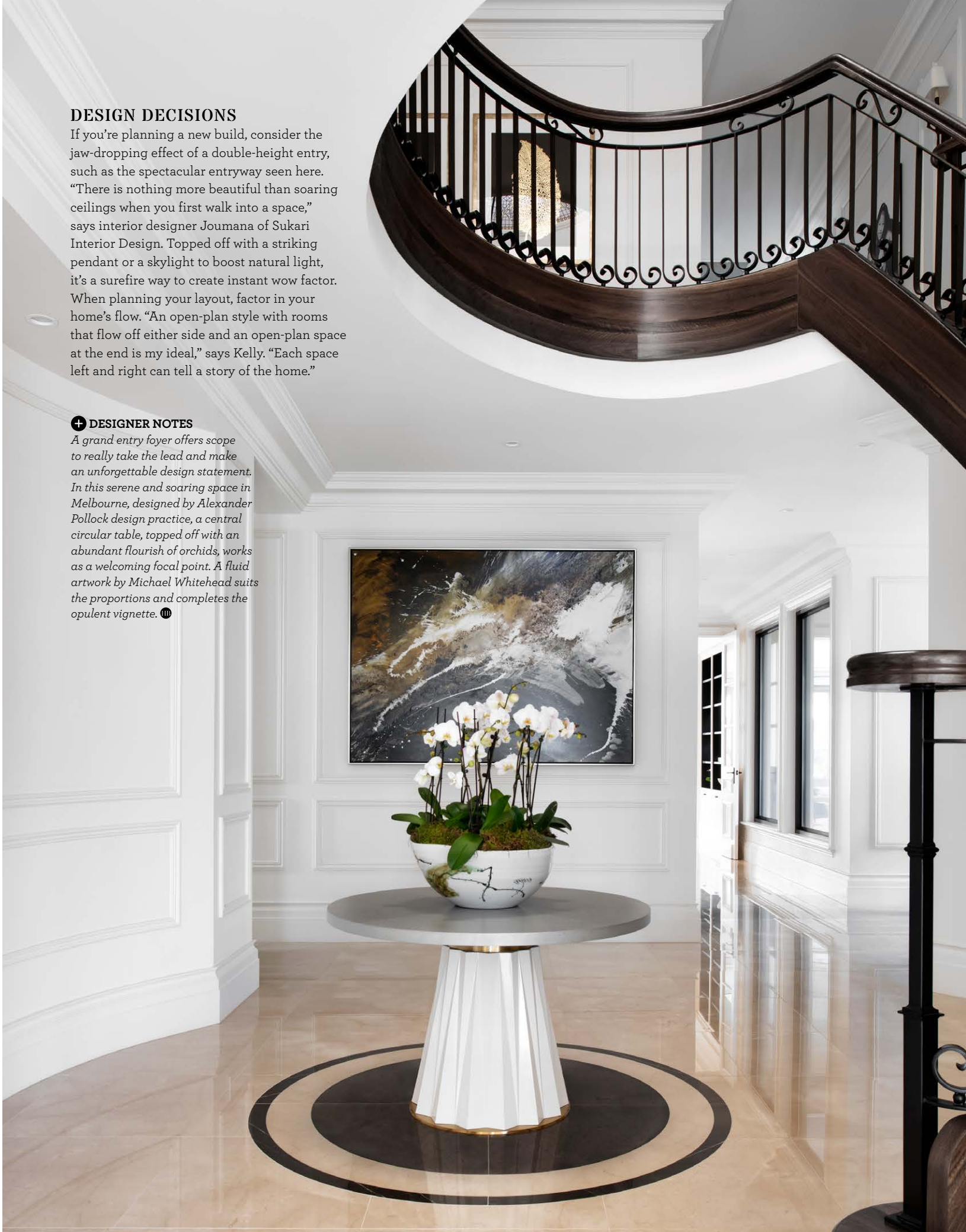


DESIGN DECISIONS

If you're planning a new build, consider the jaw-dropping effect of a double-height entry, such as the spectacular entryway seen here. “There is nothing more beautiful than soaring ceilings when you first walk into a space,” says interior designer Joumana of Sukari Interior Design. Topped off with a striking pendant or a skylight to boost natural light, it's a surefire way to create instant wow factor. When planning your layout, factor in your home's flow. “An open-plan style with rooms that flow off either side and an open-plan space at the end is my ideal,” says Kelly. “Each space left and right can tell a story of the home.”

+ DESIGNER NOTES

A grand entry foyer offers scope to really take the lead and make an unforgettable design statement. In this serene and soaring space in Melbourne, designed by Alexander Pollock design practice, a central circular table, topped off with an abundant flourish of orchids, works as a welcoming focal point. A fluid artwork by Michael Whitehead suits the proportions and completes the opulent vignette. ■■



PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE FROM TOP) ANSON SMART/STYLIST STEVE CORDOBY FOR ARMADILLO, ANSON SMART (OPPOSITE) NICOLE ENGLAND/ALEXANDER POLLOCK DESIGN, ARTWORK (THIS PAGE) ARTIST UNKNOWN

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2021 KITCHEN TRENDS

CURVEACEOUS FORMS,
STATEMENT SURFACES
AND A NEW TWIST
ON CLASSIC WHITE:
BE INSPIRED BY
THE TOP KITCHEN
TRENDS OF THE YEAR
AND SHOP THE
LOOKS YOU LOVE

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TEXTURAL TRIUMPH

THE CHARM OF AN ORIGINAL 1930S COTTAGE IS CAPTURED IN
A MODERN EXTENSION THAT MAINTAINS ITS CLASSIC APPEAL

Words KYLIE JACKES Photography NATALIE SPADAVECCHIA

Rather than renovate an older property, sometimes it's simpler to knock down and rebuild. But that wasn't an option for the owners of this pint-sized 1930s harbourside cottage on Sydney's Lower North Shore. "The clients wanted us to renovate and extend the home, so it felt both modern and timeless and paid homage to the charm and intimate scale of the original brick cottage," says Michael Kilkeary, creative lead of Cadence & Co. The yearned-for balance of new and old was struck in the kitchen, which sits in a new pavilion alongside the cottage. Working with a relatively small floor area, the simple galley layout, with a pantry tucked to the side, is practical and brims with character. A distinct feature is the recycled sandstock brick splashback, which provides a strong link to the cottage. "Essentially, we aimed to create a contemporary cottage feel which was timeless," says Michael, "so we kept the palette subtle with textural and tonal elements and vintage-inspired fittings." Layered in timber from the floor to the ceiling, the result is a warm and welcoming space, which has all the comfort and convenience of a modern kitchen with its heart in the past.

STAND-OUT SPLASHBACK

The right material can make a space, and recycled sandstock brick from The Brick Pit does that here. "We wanted the kitchen to feel a little lived-in and reflect the home's character," says interior designer Michael. Providing more texture and colour are the brick's grey undertones - they inspired the natural palette of timber, bronze accessories and 'Atlas Gold' marble benchtops from Euro Natural Stone.



CLASSIC PANELLING

Attention to detail stretches to a ceiling finished with vertical-joint lining boards (for similar, try Easycraft). This tailored look is carried through to the base of the island, where it grounds the marble benchtop. "Because the area receives a lot of mid-morning sun, we thought the panelling would add more interest and pick up the light better than plain plasterboard or a flat surface," says Michael. "The boards are handpainted, rather than polyurethane, which adds to the overall sense of natural finishes and textures." >

“THE BRONZE
TAPWARE AND
WALL LIGHTS,
WITH A SENSE OF
WEATHERING AND
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NATURAL FINISHES”
~ MICHAEL, INTERIOR DESIGNER

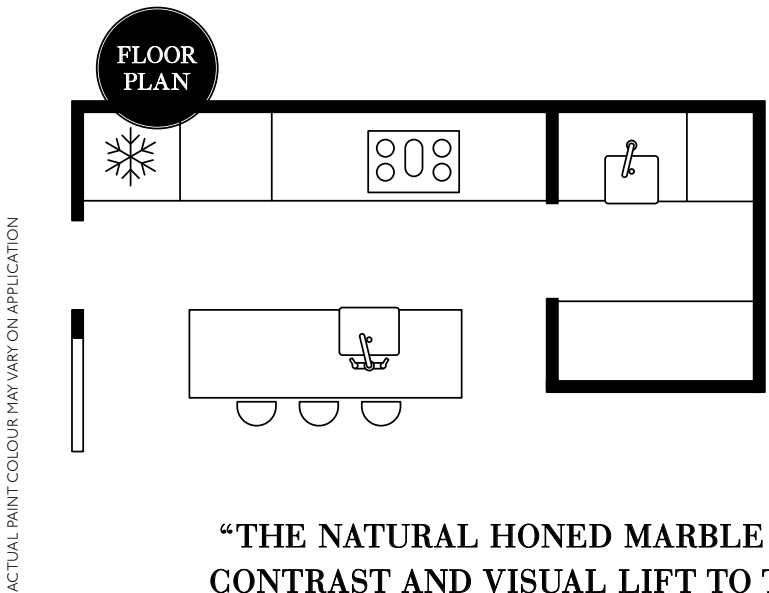
TACTILE TIMBER
The original cottage featured timber floors, and the look was reflected in the new pavilion with ‘Eterno’ engineered timber boards from Tongue N Groove. Joinery in Navurban ‘Sherwood’ veneer from New Age Veneers expresses the same greyish undertones.



INSIDER TIP
Harmony over hero. “Kitchens have a lot going on with appliance, sink and storage requirements, so I prefer to keep the palette simple,” says Michael. “Rather than hero elements, I aim to create harmony by looking at the space and combination of materials as whole – to ensure they balance one another, not compete for attention.”

INSPIRED LOCATION
The kitchen’s location was selected to make the most of a north-eastern aspect (above). “A door concealed as joinery alongside the integrated fridge-freezer opens to a laundry and mud room,” says Michael. This also enabled the pantry to sit at one end (opposite), where it serves as an extension of the kitchen. Both zones boast Novi fireclay butler sinks from Turner Hastings and Astra Walker ‘Olde English’ tapware in aged brass.

PAINT & FURNISHINGS
Choosing the right white involved sample boards tested in situ. “It had to be neutral but tie in with the brick and timber,” says Michael. Dulux Natural White in full strength was chosen for all walls and the ceiling. Completing the tonal scheme are ‘Markson’ dining chairs and ‘Miami’ rattan stools, both from Coco Republic while Il Fanale ‘Officina’ pendants from LightCo sit elegantly on the brick wall (opposite & above.)



SOURCE BOOK
ARCHITECTURE, BUILD & INTERIOR DESIGN:
Cadence & Co, (02) 9450 1950, cadenceandco.com.au.

“THE NATURAL HONED MARBLE BENCHTOPS PROVIDE A SUBTLE
CONTRAST AND VISUAL LIFT TO THE SPACE” ~ MICHAEL, INTERIOR DESIGNER