



THEN + NOW JENNY & JULIA'S KITCHEN & BATHROOM

A tired kitchen and a dated bathroom become a cook's dream and a modern masterpiece

Text by **Johanna Thornton**. Photography by **Jamie Cobel**.

SNAPSHOT

WHO LIVES HERE? **Jenny Parr** (nursing manager), **Julia Slark** (university lecturer) and Molly the mini Schnauzer who rules the roost. **WHERE IS IT?** Ponsonby, Auckland. **LIVED HERE FOR...** Two and a half years. **INTERIOR DESIGNER** Susan Templer, Templer Interiors. **THE CLIENTS' ULTIMATE GOAL?** A fresh, clean look with better storage and additional work space. The layout had to accommodate two cooks in the kitchen at the same time. Jenny and Julia wanted a modern, contemporary look but with colourful details and splashes of colour.

BEST MOMENT? "FOR JENNY AND JULIA, GETTING TO COOK IN THEIR NEW KITCHEN ON THAT BEAUTIFUL NEW FALCON RANGE!"



DIY DETAILS

SUSAN, DESCRIBE THE KITCHEN BEFORE: Old and tired with impractical laminate benchtops. The hob and oven were poor quality and the venting was non-existent. The peninsula bench, instead of adding work space, was just a catch-all for mail, magazines and dog toys.

DESCRIBE THE KITCHEN NOW: Light, bright and colourful with ample, practical storage solutions.

LIST IN BULLET POINTS WHAT YOU DID...

- ✦ Created an open-plan space with easy flow-through from work areas to dining area.
- ✦ Centred the range and hood to be a focal point when looking down the hallway into the kitchen.
- ✦ Created a new island with ample storage and work space.
- ✦ Frosted glass-fronted cabinets in two areas add sparkle and break up the expanse of cabinetry.
- ✦ A large appliance garage with an aluminium roller door hides small appliances and breakfast supplies.
- ✦ Aluminium cabinet doors continue the theme of metal accents against the white-painted cabinets.
- ✦ Häfele storage features in the cabinets include: tall pantry, spice pantry, double rubbish bins and Lemans corner unit.
- ✦ A small bookcase and a display shelf next to the window provide useful open shelves and add to the general sense of openness.
- ✦ Custom drawer dividers built in to some drawers.
- ✦ A small bar area with wine fridge, wine glass storage and bench space is a practical landing space for the pantry and wine fridge immediately adjacent.
- ✦ Painted existing table and chairs to match the kitchen.
- ✦ New cushions for existing window seat in black (to match the floor tiles) and bright red cushions to match the feature wall.
- ✦ Industrial-chic pendant lights centred over the dining space.

STYLING

SUSAN, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR DECORATING STYLE?

Contemporary with colourful and quirky touches.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE COLOUR PALETTE? Jenny and Julia wanted pops of strong colour and Jenny wanted to use her painting as inspiration (it now hangs on the wall above the island). They selected black, grey and white tiles to keep the permanent fixtures in a neutral palette. The long kitchen wall was the ideal place for a strong colour statement. Red is the strongest colour in the painting and the one that would look the best against the backdrop of green outside the windows.

STYLING TIPS? It's okay to be eclectic; you don't have to be a slave to one look or theme, but you do need to create a flow so that it doesn't look random and confused. Colour is a great unifier and should be used to pull a room together. A good start is to pick three colours as your base and repeat them around the house, either as overall colours or as accents.

BEST LESSON LEARNED?

"SMALL SPACES ARE A CHALLENGE TO DESIGN"

HOW LONG DID THE MAKEOVER TAKE?

"FIVE MONTHS WITH A CHRISTMAS BREAK IN BETWEEN"



THEN



NOW



BUDGET

WHAT WERE YOUR BEST BUYS?

The bathroom fixtures from Plumblinc and the kitchen's white subway tiles from Heritage Tiles.

ANY INVESTMENT PURCHASES?

The great-quality Falcon stove, refrigerator and wine fridge.

WHAT WAS THE TOTAL BUDGET?

\$65,000-\$85,000



FACT FILE: Walls in Resene 'Black White' and 'Vibe'; Caesarstone Oyster on benchtops; white-gloss subway tiles from Heritage Tiles (now called Tile Space) on splashback; bathroom in Riviera Ash Honed and Vulcano black porcelain tiles, both from Tile Depot; lighting by Boudi; stove and hood by Falcon; Mitsubishi fridge; Vintec wine fridge; kitchen sink from Heritage; kitchen tap and bathroom fixtures and fittings from Plumblinc; Sanderson cushion fabric from Textilia.

DIY DETAILS

WHAT WAS YOUR CLIENTS' ULTIMATE GOAL WITH THE BATHROOM? Because the bathroom opens to the kitchen, my design had to minimise the impact of its location. The clients also wanted a bigger shower and better storage for both the bathroom and laundry areas.

LIST IN BULLET POINTS WHAT YOU DID.

- ✦ A rarely used back door was walled over to give more useable wall space.
- ✦ Installed a new door from the kitchen with frosted-glass panels that match the frosted glass in the bathroom window.
- ✦ Bathroom door switched to open on the opposite side. This allowed for the toilet to be hidden from view when the door is open and for the new bifold doors in the laundry to operate properly.
- ✦ The small tub was removed and replaced with a large walk-in shower with expansive glass doors.
- ✦ New attractive vanity with better storage, new toilet, plumbing fixtures and towel warmer.
- ✦ Added black floor tiles.
- ✦ Dramatic industrial-style wall lights on either side of the vanity personalise the room and add a quirky touch.
- ✦ A messy laundry closet became a well-organised and useful laundry with customised storage shelves.