

Meeting place

Located in a heritage home, this kitchen feels fresh and modern while maintaining its classic charm.

STORY Elizabeth Wilson | STYLING Samantha Torrisi | PHOTOGRAPHY Ess Creative



KITCHEN design notes

JOINERY MDF with 2-pack satin polyurethane finish in Dulux White on White

BENCHTOPS Liberty Grey marble, \$495/m² honed, SNB Stone (island). Quantum Quartz Alpine White, \$385/m², WK Quantum Quartz (wall side).

SPLASHBACK Liberty Grey marble, \$495/m², SNB Stone.

TAPWARE Perrin & Rowe 'Ionian' two-hole bench-mounted mixer in Pewter with porcelain levers, \$2030, The English Tapware Company.

SINK Shaws Classic double butler sink, \$2370, Candana.

APPLIANCES Integrated French-door fridge, Fisher & Paykel.

Freestanding oven and cooktop, Ilve. Integrated dishwasher, Miele.

LIGHTING Articolo Lighting 'XL Triple Moni' pendant light, from \$8850, Est Lighting.

FURNITURE Vintage kitchen stools. For similar, try Thonet.

Sometimes, a renovation is not just about celebrating the new, but about respecting a sense of the original. That was the approach taken by interior architect Sally Rhys-Jones when she was asked to redesign the kitchen for this heritage home on Sydney's North Shore. The owners of the Federation-era home, built in the Arts & Crafts style, felt their old kitchen wasn't in keeping with the classic aesthetics of the house. "The idea was to give it a more traditional feel with some modern elements," Sally says.

The kitchen occupies a high-traffic zone between the formal and casual living rooms, so Sally arrived at a layout where most of the utilities are lined up against the wall, with a 2x1.4-metre island forming a central gathering spot. "We had limited options because it's a narrow space," she says. "But this works well, allowing for access to both living areas around the island."

For a timeless palette Sally chose Shaker-style joinery in crisp white, teaming it with a soft grey marble for the island benchtop and splashback. "We used Liberty Grey marble with full waterfall ends so from either living space it appears as a big block of stone which adds a contemporary element to the design," she says. The ceiling height allowed for an elegant hanging pendant light while the freestanding oven and cooktop are in a matt graphite finish, adding a graphic contrast to the otherwise light palette. "I love the soaring ceilings and the striking contrasts of the contemporary elements," says Sally. Rhys/Jones Interior Architecture; sallyrhysjones.com.