



"We're interested in shaping the room to appear lighter and more expansive. As a kitchen and meals area, we wanted to create a place you'd like to 'hang out' in," says Jane McDougall of AlsoCAN Architects, above with design partners David Beynon (left) and Andrew Morant.

## \$24,000 BUDGET

**t**his scheme shows the difference a bit more money can make. AlsoCAN's design sees the kitchen filled with light by opening the house to the garden. A pale palette and innovative materials are accented by punches of colour and a dominant architectural feature.

### LAYOUT

The workbench would be set on an angle to better link the kitchen to the dining room. "The shape of the room and position of the exits limits you to a degree. We just expanded on the U-shaped layout, which is already quite efficient," says Jane. To open the room up, a large amount of the budget would be spent on the bi-fold glazed doors.

The room is dominated by the hoop-pine ply workbench which directs the eye outdoors by continuing through the wall of glass. It loops back and re-enters the room at an angle, forming a bulkhead above the workbench. Above it, open shelving in pale laminate provides storage. Outdoors, the looped bench can be used to hold glasses when entertaining.

### FITTINGS

Acting on the request for a pale colour scheme, the designers chose Thermoclear Opal translucent sheeting for the ceiling and pantry doors. "It's a durable product commonly used for skylights," says Jane.

On the western wall is a bank of cupboards in pale laminate. The doors would be finished in a translucent laminated glass. "Partly because of cost, we limited the glass to the smaller cupboard doors and the front of drawers," says Jane. Simple matt silver handles would be used.

In contrast to the pale cupboards, the cooktop bench and cavity would be lined with hoop-pine ply and defined by a splashback in aubergine laminate (also on the underside of the workbench). "Often overhead cupboards are set back a bit and can look 'bitsy'. We've made them flush with the width of the benchtop, but placed them a little higher so that you don't bump your head on the rangehood."

*The cupboards and drawers are finished with translucent laminated glass, \$124 per sqm, from Pilkington nationally 1800 810 403. Right The open shelving is finished in pale Abet Laminati laminate in #479 (front sample); the cooktop splashback and underside of the workbench are finished with aubergine Abet Laminati laminate in #424 (behind), both \$36.37 per sqm, from Designer Laminates, Burwood VIC (03) 9888 7400.*



### APPLIANCES

The fridge would be moved to one side, separated from the cooktop by a pull-out pantry unit, which is accessible from both sides. On the other side is a wall oven. The sink would be fitted into the workbench, with a dishwasher underneath. The bench where the sink was originally would be replaced with a glazed door to the deck. "We thought it was important to make the connection to the garden," says Jane.

### LIGHTING

The ceiling would be dropped and lit with fluorescent tubes so the entire kitchen glowed. Two recessed downlights above the cooktop provide additional lighting.

*The walls are painted with Dulux Low Sheen Acrylic in Extreme White (front sample), \$45 per 4L; and the bi-fold door frames are painted with Dulux Interior Gloss in Morning Coat (behind), \$51 per 4L, from Dulux nationally 13 25 25.*

## MATERIALS USED

● **Appliances** Blanco BMS603W white electric wall oven, \$879; Highland Osca stainless-steel gas cooktop, \$1595; Blanco white Capri integrated rangehood, \$445; and Blanco dishwasher BDW206W, \$1295, from Buy-Rite Electrix, Richmond VIC (03) 9428 0333.

*Designers' tip* If you buy all your appliances from one retailer at the same time, you can often negotiate a deal. ● **Sink/taps** Blancoduo one-and-a-half bowl stainless-steel sink with Blanco chrome mixer taps, \$699, from Buy-Rite Electrix (as above).

● **Joinery/fixtures and fittings** Joinery, \$7200, by Jones Joinery, Oakleigh VIC (03) 9563 2166, finished with Abet Laminati laminate (see opposite page). (Prices are approximate trade prices that include a discount. These materials are generally specified by an architect or joiner.) Hoop-pine plywood (benchtops), around \$95 per

2.4m x 1.2m sheet, from Construction Plywood Sales, Airport West VIC (03) 9338 1933. Thermoclear Opal translucent sheeting (ceiling and pantry doors), \$476 per 5.8m x 2.1m sheet, from Cadillac Plastics, Braybrook VIC (03) 9318 5100. Anodised aluminium channel frames (cupboard door surrounds), about \$15 per 6.5m length, from Capral, Scoresby VIC (03) 9212 9111. La Cantina timber bi-fold doors, \$2500, from Jones Joinery (as before). Nickel-plated matt handles #105.39.401, \$3.60 each; pull-out pantry unit #546.70.245 with five baskets, \$350; and twin waste bin unit #502.70.220, \$124, all by Hafele, from joiners nationally.

● **Lighting** Four aluminium matt-finish low-voltage downlights, \$47 each; eight 2ft fluorescent tubes with covers, \$25 each, from Richmond Lighting, Richmond VIC (03) 9429 4977. ● **Painting** See opposite page.

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## BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Designer's fees	\$4000
Demolition	\$800
Carpenter	\$3800
Plumber/electrician	\$2112
Appliances	\$4214
Sink/taps	\$699
Joinery	\$7200
Lighting	\$388
Painting	\$800

**TOTAL** **\$24,013**



