

# EVERYDAY HERO

*A palette of rich and TEXTURAL materials belies the robust NATURE of this well-used space.*

STORY *Chris Pearson* | STYLING *Alexandra Gordon* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Prue Ruscoe*



*A stylish kitchen* in the treetops: Decus Interiors has served up that delicious prospect in this beachside home in Sydney's east. "The brief was for a rich and textural palette of materials, allowing everyday areas to double as formal spaces for grown-up entertaining," says its designer, Alexandra Donohoe Church. "Because it caters to an active and busy household, it needed to be robust with a beautiful practicality."

The location, on the second level with expansive views through floor-to-ceiling windows, was a given. Alexandra's task was to ensure the kitchen made the most of its valley vistas while also having a strong dialogue with the open-plan living space beyond.

Alexandra had the luxury of space in which to work her magic. The kitchen is 7.5x3.5 metres, with an adjacent pantry adding a further 1.5 metres to its length. She made the dark island the anchor in the scheme, both visually and functionally. "You can stand at the island and survey much of the ground floor," she says. A custom cantilevered banquette beside it, upholstered in wipe-clean outdoor fabric, creates the ideal informal eating area. "This is the perfect breakfast spot," she says, "capitalising on an abundance of natural light and the amazing view."

The pantry is located at the opposite end of the kitchen beside the garage, so the owners could enter from the house without traipsing through the main living spaces, "almost a secret entry, so to speak".

The home's seaside location informed many of the material choices, says Alexandra, including the fresh palette of deep navy on the joinery, cobalt blue threaded through textural veined marble and the crisp white walls, their colours and textures blending sophistication and practicality. Combined with contemporary furniture and the owners' collection of Australian art, "they ground and enhance this characterful family home".

**Decus Interiors; [decus.com.au](http://decus.com.au).**

## KITCHEN *design notes*

**JOINERY** Two-pack polyurethane in Dulux Vivid White (cupboards). Two-pack polyurethane in Porter's Paints Toy Soldier (discontinued) with bronze mesh inserts (on island).

**APPLIANCES** Miele refrigerator and dishwasher. Ilve oven and cooktop. Whispair rangehood. All from Winning Appliances.

**BENCHTOPS** Super White 13 engineered stone, Stone Italiana (rear bench). Honed Grigio San Marco marble, Euro Marble (island).

**SPLASHBACK** Super White 13 engineered stone, Stone Italiana.

**WALLS** Dulux Natural White.

**FLOORING** Marte Grigio Egeo, Bisanna Tiles.

**SINK** Franke 'Kubus KBX', Winning Appliances.

**TAPWARE** Hansgrohe 'Talis S2 Variarc' mixer, Cass Brothers. Zip 'Arc' hydrotap, Winning Appliances.

**FURNITURE** Carl Hansen & Son 'Elbow' chair, Cult. Custom table, designed by Decus Interiors and made by JP Finsbury. Custom banquette, in Christopher Farr Cloth 'Capri' outdoor fabric, Ascraft.

**LIGHTING** Gubi 'Ronde' large pendant lights, Cult.

Bronze mesh inserts in the cupboard doors provide a luxe feel, enhanced by custom pieces such as the banquette in Christopher Farr Cloth 'Capri' outdoor fabric.

## H&G KITCHENS

The trio of black pendant lights and patinated bronze rangehood enliven the soothing palette of this expansive family kitchen where conviviality is guaranteed.

## Caramel swirl

*Luscious tones lend warmth to this generous kitchen that welcomes family and friends.*

STORY *Chris Pearson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Anson Smart*