



Romancing the load

Washing needn't be a chore when it's done in a room that's elevated far above the ordinary.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | STYLING *Julia Green* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Armelle Habib*

“I WANTED A LAUNDRY THAT DIDN'T FEEL LIKE A UTILITY SPACE, HENCE THE ARTWORK.”

Kate Walker



LAUNDRIES **H&G**

Who says a laundry can't have a sprinkling of romance as well as washing powder? “When I was designing the laundry for my family home, I made sure it would serve as a multi-use space: a main family entrance and mud room as well as a laundry,” says Kate Walker, interior designer and director of KWD. “I had also always longed for a stable-style door, so incorporating this element into the design added to the romance of it.”

In her compact Mornington Peninsula laundry, smart space planning topped the wish list. “The laundry had to incorporate a washing machine, dryer and laundry tub as well as a drying room, because I’m not around during the day to take washing off the line,” says Kate. “It’s laid out so the kids can bring in their school bags, take off their shoes and their dirty sports gear and put it straight in the laundry tub.”

She also prefers the washer and dryer to be separated by the sink, “so you can take your wet washing out of the washing machine, sort it in the sink and then hang items in the drying cupboard or pop them in the dryer”. Again, with practicality in mind, she avoided any temptation to mount the dryer on the wall. “That takes away from useable bench space, which is needed in a compact laundry,” says Kate.

The aesthetic is modern farmhouse, which is all about bringing the outside in. “It balances comfort, simplicity and modern influences, blending old and new,” she says. In that vein, her black and white palette, accentuated by shades of green, combines sophistication and earthiness. Apart from the stable-style door, the other romantic touch is the artwork. “I wanted a laundry that didn’t feel like a utility space, hence the artwork,” adds Kate. “It makes it a room that’s beautiful to be in. I can get lost in that painting while I’m taking care of boring laundry duties!”

KWD; (03) 5974 1800 or katewalkerdesign.com.au.

LAUNDRY *design notes*

JOINERY Two-pack polyurethane in Dulux Tarzan Green.

HARDWARE Sydney handles and knobs, Hepburn Hardware.

APPLIANCES Siemens iQ800 washer, Siemens iQ800 dryer, E&S.

BENCHTOPS & SPLASHBACK Honed Carrara marble, KWD.

WALLS Shiplap cladding painted Dulux Snowy Mountains Quarter.

FLOORING Hand-chipped black limestone laid in herringbone pattern, KWD.

SINK Acquello fireclay sink, The English Tapware Company.

TAPWARE Perrin & Rowe 'lo' two-hole bench-mounted mixer in English Bronze, The English Tapware Company.

ART Painting by Debbie Mackenzie.