

CLASSIC STYLE

Respect for tradition and a love of blue prove to be magic ingredients.

THE BRIEF

“The clients adore navy and white, so it was only natural that this would be the palette we worked with,” says interior designer Kate Walker of this delicious 6.7x3m kitchen. In renovating their circa-1910 home on Victoria’s Mornington Peninsula, the homeowners were keen to pay homage to the era. As avid foodies, they were seeking a serious cook’s kitchen. “And as parents of three young children, they wanted it to be a place where the family could congregate while meals are prepared.” ▶

Photography by Armelle Habib.

✦ “It’s not true navy,” says Kate of the colour, Dulux Pacific Line. “It’s a chameleon and changes with the light. It’s iridescent blue in the morning light and turns dark navy/charcoal at night. Pairing it with white was the obvious choice – it allows the blue to shine.”

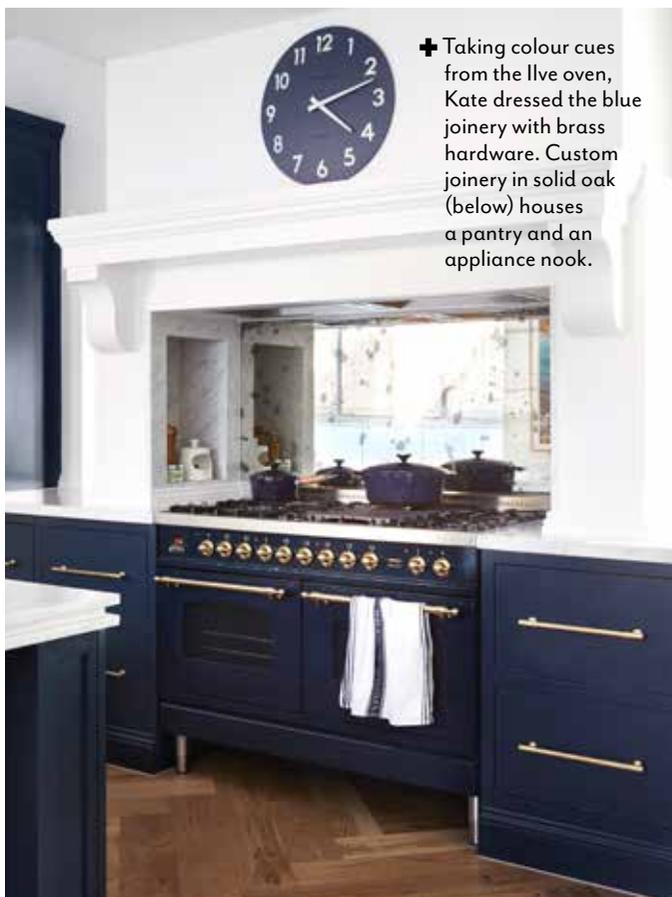
✦ At 4.7x1.2m, the island bench is a powerful hero of the space, offering a vast food prep area, cupboard storage, shelving and a 1.5x1.2m dining table at one end.

✦ Featuring a Shaker-style profile, the joinery is built from solid oak and handpainted “so you can see the brushmarks” says Kate.

H&G KITCHEN SPECIAL



✦ Solid brass T-bar handles and knobs and a kitchen mixer in satin brass add warmth and work tonally with the European oak herringbone flooring.



✦ Taking colour cues from the Ilve oven, Kate dressed the blue joinery with brass hardware. Custom joinery in solid oak (below) houses a pantry and an appliance nook.

THE DESIGN APPROACH

Mindful of the home's original architecture, Kate designed the kitchen with a classic aesthetic while also equipping it with top-notch, modern functionality. She even designed a chimney-like cavity space to house the rangehood, ovens and cooktop. "It looks like an original chimney to emphasise the traditional aspect of the kitchen." To underline the theme, she used hand-aged mirror as a splashback in this nook. The colour scheme was dictated by a blue Ilve oven, the owner's first purchase for the kitchen. "When we saw the navy oven we made the decision to go with blue and pair it with white and brass. It would have been predictable to have a white kitchen in this home, but we wanted to design something a bit punchier and our clients were bold enough to follow our lead," says Kate. A decorative metal grille above the row of tall cupboards is another classic reference, adding texture and interest to the scheme. To secure the kitchen's role as a family gathering place, she designed a grand-scale, multipurpose island bench combining food prep and dining zones, topped with an elegant slab of Carrara marble. ▶

KWD; www.katewalkerdesign.com.au.



Key details Blue joinery in solid oak with custom Shaker-style profile, painted Dulux Pacific Line. **Benchtops** Carrara marble, imported especially for this project. **Splashback** made from handpainted mercury mirror. **Decorative grille** with brass finish, The English Tapware Company. Perrin & Rowe 'Ionian' mixer tap with porcelain levers and spray rinse in satin brass, \$1749, The English Tapware Company. Emac & Lawton 'Francis' antique brass handles and knobs, The English Tapware Company. **Appliances:** Nostalgie Series 120cm freestanding cooker with double electric ovens and 6-burner cooktop with teppanyaki plate, \$18,999, Ilve. Asko dishwasher. Integrated fridge/freezer, Liebherr.