

**Hip to be square**

Matt white 100mmx100mm tiles are laid in a stacked pattern. "Square, stacked tiles have a more contemporary feel than a subway tile," says Ian. The same tile is used for the island benchtop.

**Island home**

The island bench, measuring 2mx90cm, has a powdercoated-steel frame, an underbench of timber tones and a tiled benchtop that underlines its function as a social zone more than a work space. "Detailing the island as 'furniture' draws it into the living area," says Ian.

**Timber tones**

Ian and Steven opted for a timber-look melamine (LikeWood in Tuscan Oak from Elton Group) for the island joinery. "The colour palette is spot on and the likeness to actual timber is outstanding," says Ian. "Being a melamine product, it's easy-care, too."



**THE ISLAND KITCHEN: WHY IT WORKS**

**Ideal for those who want the kitchen to be a social hub,** the island layout requires a larger open-plan space. The island becomes part of the living space.

**DETAILS**

- Cabinetry** Polytec laminate in Classic White (underbench); LikeWood in Tuscan Oak, Elton Group (island bench).
  - Shelving and window seat** LikeWood (as before).
  - Benchtop** Caesarstone in Sleek Concrete 20mm (rear bench), \$450/m<sup>2</sup> (installed).
  - Tap** Lucia SK5 pull-out spray mixer, \$404, Abey.
  - Tiles** RAL (100x100mm), \$57/m<sup>2</sup>, Groove Tiles & Stone.
  - Drawer handles** American oak handles, from \$15 each, Kethy.
  - Pendant light** Muuto 'Ambit', \$300, Living Edge.
  - Window seat cushion** 'Huts Indigo Canvas' cotton fabric, \$121/m, Walter G.
  - Stools** Magis 'Steelwood' stools, from \$550 each, Cult.
  - Flooring** American oak.
- For Where to Buy, see page 221.*

# SOCIAL SCENE

An open, inclusive layout ensures the cook isn't left in the cold.

**The brief** Creating a welcoming, relaxed, social kitchen was top of the agenda for the owners of this renovated Queenslander in Brisbane. Keen entertainers, they wanted a layout that invited people to sit and stay awhile. A "fresh white kitchen" was part of their vision and, to maximise the overall ease of the space, they wanted ample built-in storage and smooth-running functionality.

**The solution** Interior design duo Ian Wrightson and Steven Stewart devised a kitchen that radiates a breezy sociability. "This island is solely for eating and gathering around – there are no services incorporated into it," says Ian. The window seat near the island encourages guests to interact with the cook, while timber tones add visual warmth to the mostly white scheme. ▶ *Wrightson Stewart; wrightsonstewart.com.au*

Text by Elizabeth Wilson. Photography by Kylie Hood.

**APPLIANCES**

- Cooktop** Fisher & Paykel 60cm gas-on-glass.
- Oven** Fisher & Paykel 60cm pyrolytic oven.
- Fridge** Fisher & Paykel 90cm french door.

