

## H&G KITCHEN SPECIAL

"One of the challenges was working with the space's extreme angles," says Wrightson. "We overcame this with built-in joinery, incorporating the kitchen into the living area using vertical storage and bench seating." In keeping with the theme, the mesh-front display cabinet references a traditional pantry.



**'OUR IDEA TO LEAVE THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE QUITE RAW CREATED GREAT IMPACT – COUNTER-BALANCING THE HIGHLY FINISHED JOINERY AND DESIGNER PIECES WITH THE GRITTIER ELEMENTS OF THE PRE-EXISTING SPACE.'**

IAN WRIGHTSON, INTERIOR DESIGNER

of this being a social place, the designers decided "to view the kitchen as furniture" and focused on creating a mid-20th century aesthetic. They designed the island bench as a stunning piece of timber furniture, raised on metal legs, with open shelving at one end and vertical storage at the other. This reinforced the idea of the kitchen as an extension of the living room. The island is deliberately free of a sink so that it acts as a table/serving area. "We wanted the island to be more about entertaining than cooking and preparation," says Wrightson. For this reason, too, the island is topped with a sleek, 20mm-thick slab of Carrara marble rather than a thicker benchtop. All the white cabinetry is outlined in timber, serving both a stylistic and practical purpose. "Using solid American-walnut surrounds allowed us to detail the kitchen as furniture. The solid timber also acts as a handle."

All of Wrightson Stewart's design decisions have been vindicated – and not only by a happy client. This project recently won Best in State for residential design in Queensland in the recent Australian Interior Design Awards.



### Project costs

Joinery	\$39,000
Bricks	POA
Benchtop	\$5000
Mater high stool from Cult	from \$1000/each
Inlite Endless 30 suspended profile light	\$POA

(Prices are approximate and pertain to time of installation.)

The island bench is raised on metal feet to reinforce the idea of it being a piece of furniture. "We also liked the idea of the original timber floorboards continuing visibly through the space, allowing for a sense of connection between the kitchen and living room," says Wrightson.

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### The details

- ❖ **Brick wall** Academy Collection Nobel Split bricks from PGH Bricks & Pavers. These thin-profile bricks (230x110x50mm) are made to order. "It was a playful way to add layering to the existing, raw brickwork," says Wrightson. "The crisp, white pointing accentuates the glossy black finish." PGH Bricks & Pavers; 131 579 or [www.pghbricks.com.au](http://www.pghbricks.com.au).
- ❖ **Cabinetry** Crown-cut American walnut veneer. The door fronts are in melamine in Classic White from Polytec; 1300 300 547 or [www.polytec.com.au](http://www.polytec.com.au).
- ❖ **Benchtop** 20mm-thick Carrara marble. "Opting for the 20mm-thick marble was in reference to our idea of the island as a piece of furniture," says Wrightson.
- ❖ **Lighting** "Due to the space we were unable to use downlights," says Wrightson, "so we put LED strip lighting underneath the wall cabinetry". Above the island bench is an Endless 30 suspended profile light by Inlite; (02) 9699 3900 or [www.inlite.com.au](http://www.inlite.com.au).

Wrightson Stewart Interior Design, Fortitude Valley, Queensland; (07) 3252 9516 or [www.wrightsonstewart.com.au](http://www.wrightsonstewart.com.au).



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Nobel Split bricks in Black Gloss, POA, PGH Bricks & Pavers. Carrara marble, from \$550/m<sup>2</sup> (installed). Melamine in Classic White \$49/m<sup>2</sup>, Polytec. American walnut veneer, about \$50/m<sup>2</sup>, Finewood Ventech.

### DESIGNER NOTES



"The layout of this kitchen is straightforward but the materials give it a sense of drama and glamour," says Steven Stewart (above right), who designed the space with Ian Wrightson (left). "We always use classic materials and our intention here

was to pay our respects to the character of the heritage building." Black-gloss bricks They are unorthodox, but they look fantastic and work in this heritage building, which is itself made from bricks. Walnut veneer "Walnut is my favourite timber. It works in any environment – modern or traditional. It adds a warmth to the space and it has a drama to it," says Stewart.

### ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS



Recreate the rich, earthy tones with (from left) CAL-1081 glazed ceramic tiles in Black Bevel Gloss, \$55/m<sup>2</sup>, Calibre Concepts; (02) 8021 1888 or [www.calibreconcepts.com.au](http://www.calibreconcepts.com.au). Formica laminate benchtop in Smoke Marble, from \$60/m<sup>2</sup>; [www.formica.com.au](http://www.formica.com.au). Thermoformed door front in Myrtle Gloss by Kaboodle Kitchens at Bunnings; [www.bunnings.com.au](http://www.bunnings.com.au). Isomac Zaffiro Due coffee machine, \$1640, Coffee Works Express; (02) 9533 2693 or [www.cwe.com.au](http://www.cwe.com.au).

## THE ENTERTAINER

### The brief

The owner of this converted-warehouse apartment had a clear directive: "He wanted to turn it into the ultimate bachelor pad," says Ian Wrightson, from Wrightson Stewart Interior Design. Located in one of Brisbane's former inner-city wool stores, the apartment had been converted in the 1990s. The plan was to demolish all vestiges of that era and create an open-plan kitchen and living area with a bold and strong look that sat comfortably with the original, structural elements of the voluminous building. A regular entertainer, the owner

wanted the space to be social and sophisticated. "The kitchen's function was to be more about casual entertaining than gourmet cooking," says Wrightson, who designed the space with business partner Steven Stewart.

### The design solution

The colour palette and materials were dictated by the call for a strong, masculine-looking scheme. The wall of glossy black brickwork was integral to the look, complemented by cabinetry in American walnut veneer with door fronts in a white melamine. To cement the idea