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# kitchen special

## Point of view

With her home located in an idyllic setting – on an island in the Manning River, on the NSW Mid North Coast – Amanda Evans had a clear priority when it came to renovating the kitchen in her 1970s split-level house: she wanted a room with a view. The original U-shaped kitchen had a small window that didn't take advantage of the amazing vista. Internal arches and walls also partitioned the kitchen/pantry/breakfast room into a confined space. The brief was to "open things up", make the kitchen more accessible and turn it into the home's social centre. **The design solution** Interior designer Stewart Horton transformed the space by extending it a few square metres towards the river and installing a wraparound picture window. He removed arches and internal walls to free up the room, which now measures 7x3m, and installed an island bench to improve circulation. The small pantry was enlarged to create a walk-in butler's pantry. "The design needed to be contemporary to make sense in this '70s-era house, so the overall look is pared back and minimal," says Stewart.

**Horton&Co Design, New Lambton, NSW;**  
(02) 4957 1672 or [www.hortonandco.com.au](http://www.hortonandco.com.au).

## Ideas at work

**Amanda initially envisioned** a country-style kitchen but Stewart felt that this would be at odds with the '70s character of the house. "I thought the kitchen should have subtle hints of a country kitchen, yet in a super-modern way," he says. **The black and white palette** is timeless. "It had to be timeless to mesh with what was existing," says Stewart. "Pared back to black and white, it's the details that make it special."

**Stewart has 'framed' elements** in black for visual balance. "It creates a contrast that isn't too heavy." **The framework** of the island bench, made of ebonised timber veneer, forms table legs. "It creates the effect of a bespoke table," says Stewart. **Brass elements** such as the pendant lights, stool legs and tap add patina and richness to the scheme. The island bench is 2.1x1m with a 400mm overhang to accommodate seating.



✦ The home is completely private due to its secluded location, but Stewart added roman blinds in a pale grey sheer to soften the window and provide insulation.

✦ Overhead cabinets in ebonised timber veneer form a dramatic backdrop. Cupboard fronts are fluted glass so the items inside aren't highly visible.

✦ The 60mm-thick Quantum Quartz benchtop is white with "a soft movement of black", says Stewart. This material has also been used for the splashback.

✦ Stewart didn't want drawer and cupboard handles to be prominent. Black pulls with a minimal silhouette "disappear just enough".

✦ The floorboards have been stained a warm walnut hue to reduce the redness of the original timber.

Text by Elizabeth Wilson | Photography by Jane Kelly. For Where to Buy, see page 232.

## Appliances

LG french-door fridge.  
Miele oven and built-in microwave oven.  
Smeg induction cooktop.  
AFA undermounted double sink.  
Fisher & Paykel DishDrawers.

Stained  
turpentine

Frosted  
glass

Engineered  
stone



### The details

**White joinery** is two-pac polyurethane in Dulux Vivid White with 30-per-cent gloss finish, Viison Kitchens.

**Black cabinet frames** are Carbon timber veneer, \$64/m<sup>2</sup>, Slice Veneers.

**Benchtop and splashback** are Bianco Venato Quartz engineered stone, from \$550/m<sup>2</sup> (installed), Quantum Quartz.

**Floorboards** are original turpentine hardwood with walnut stain.

**Pendant light** is Il Fanale Anversa, \$3200, LightCo.

**Arteriors Wyndham swivel stools** with iron legs in vintage brass finish and timber seat, \$730/each, Boyd Blue.

**Mixer tap** is Icon A69.o8 gooseneck in Aged Brass, \$714, Astra Walker.

**Roman blind** in Carlucci Butterscotch fabric, POA, Unique Fabrics.

**Total cost of kitchen:** about \$70,000. ▶

*'I love the combination of the clean-lined finishes with touches of wood, brass and black. It enables the kitchen to feel cosy even though it's all white.'*

*Amanda Evans, homeowner*