

# Hunter

## Lifestyle Magazine



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# Style Revival

Story: Marilyn Collins. Images: Jason Busch.







Throughout the inner suburbs of Newcastle, there are still countless homes dating back to the late 1910 era (late Edwardian), boasting solid hardwood timber floors, high ceilings, timber architraves, picture rails and skirting boards.

As fate had it, the now owner had been apartment living and decided to go house hunting, looking for a place with a rear yard for her imminent new arrival to play outside when older. "I didn't have any defined area or style in mind, I just knew I wanted a home with character," she said.

"I inspected the home, which I had found just by driving around and quickly called Dad for his once over and approval as to whether it would be the perfect place for bub and I.

"Fortunately, many of the intricate architectural details remained and many of the original features lost were reinstated like new timber windows and a pretty little bay window at the front of the property."

However, it was the location in a quiet street near to Gregson Park, Hamilton which was a prime factor in making the purchase; just perfect for taking baby for an afternoon walk, or strolling down to cosmopolitan Hamilton for a coffee and shopping.

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The new owner then had a decision to make once settlement was finalised; to extend and renovate or wait till she had moved in and tackle that challenge at another time. However, she decided to take the plunge and go straight to the renovation before moving in.

"I was working across the road from Horton & Co Design, so I popped in to speak to Stewart Horton, and after having drawn up extensive design concepts I felt really confident for him to take on the role of project manager. I initially gave him a brief to blend the design in the popular Hampton theme, however, his advice was more cautious – to perhaps take the essence of that look and adapt it to suit the period of the home and to highlight its features, not strip them away. And he was right, of course."

Stewart Horton engaged Ian Kentish, a Newcastle Builder, to take on the building renovation role. "During the 60s-70s a skillion roof had been added which had no real connection to the living area, consequently it was very dark inside the living space and there was also no connection to the garden," said Stewart.

"By reconfiguring the doorways the builder was able to open up the living area, connecting it with the formal lounge and claiming a portion of the extra-large guest room to allow the black-and-white tiled bathroom with claw-foot bath to be enlarged to give greater floor space." >





The kitchen designed by Stewart was a completely new addition, incorporating sparkling white timber, loads of valuable storage space and an island bench. The refrigerator is integrated behind timber doors, and white tiles are the splashback. A dining room opens from this space and French doors open out onto a rear terrace, with a retractable awning giving shade when required, especially in the summer months, forming a perfect space for entertaining.

A second bathroom is conveniently positioned in this section of the home. The laundry is large enough for the owner to set up the ironing board with open bench space for folding clothes – a special luxury the owner requested as a consequence of living in a compact apartment for years.

A large abstract artwork, one of the few pieces brought from the owner's previous home, was the inspiration for the colour scheme in soft greys with accents of blue and pink. These colours feature throughout both internally and externally as well as bold stripes and pretty polka-dots.

"However, Stewart had the deciding vote on making the baby's nursery a charming polka-dot pale pink-and-white wallpapered room, which I was so glad he did! It will not date for many years," said the owner.








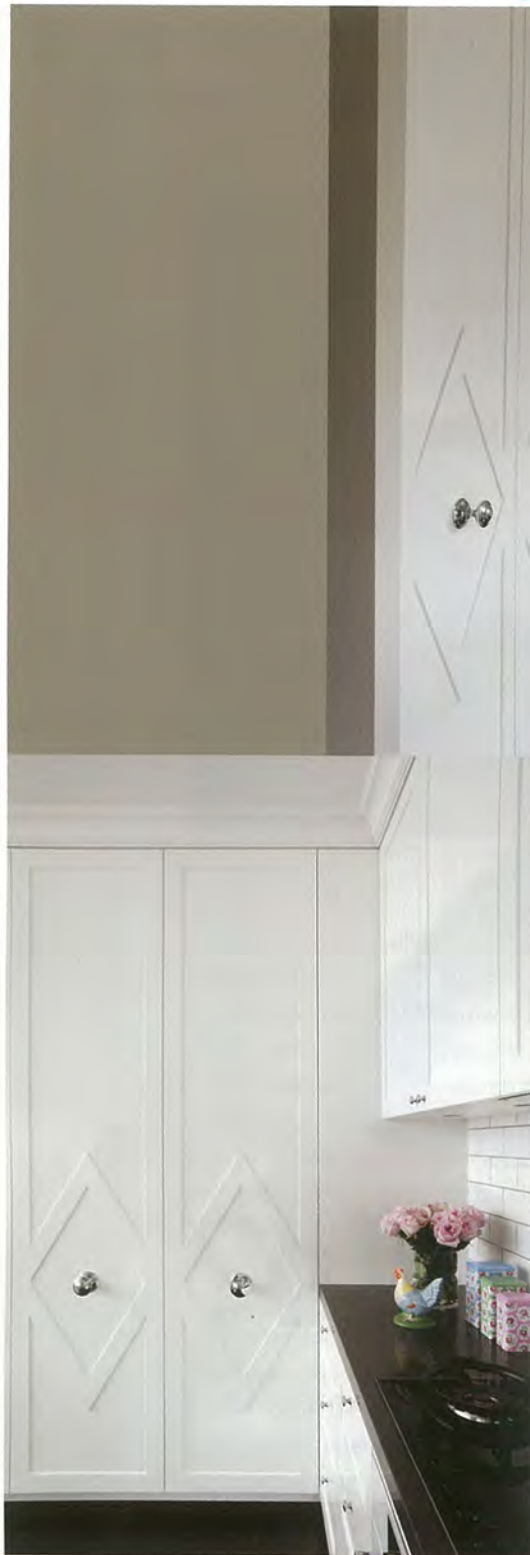
The cypress pine timber floors were stripped back and stained a dark charcoal, in keeping with the era. Soft tones of grey were chosen for the internal walls and a diamond theme flows throughout the home, from the diamond-studded glass inserts in the front door through to the bedroom glass.

"Stewart had a defined eye for detail and he was a godsend for me having just had a baby, taking charge of all the day-to-day running of the work schedule and importantly, he worked to my budget."

In hindsight, the owner said doing the renovation prior to moving into the property was the right decision. "I could not have imaged having to either live throughout such a turmoil with a baby or having to relocate whilst it was being done. Now we can settle back and enjoy our new home."

The attention to detail, retention of significant features and complementary additions that combine to make this family home welcoming are so chic and make a lasting impression. 





# The Kitchen

by Stewart Horton  
photography Jason Busch

Kitchens are my favourite part of a house, designed well they can become like a beautiful piece of furniture and really set the overall look for a house. When I first start designing a kitchen I consider the style and age of the house. If the house is older, say turn of the century or earlier, I consider making subtle references to tie it all together. Slavishly designed "old style" kitchens can actually date really quickly so keep it contemporary with a light touch of nostalgia. Kitchens are usually the largest statement for a house so make it fun with great details, colours or finishes.

Storage is key and I always try and sneak in as much storage for a client as possible, including overhead cupboards and minimising wasted space by dropping kickboards down low. In this kitchen I wanted to maintain a sense of proportion with all the drawers lining up, however to give the client a variety of drawer use some drawers double up and faux drawer fronts disguise the different sizes giving the appearance of a uniform bank of drawers.

The range of appliances these days is amazing but I still try and minimize how many are on show at any given time. I always integrate fridges into cupboards and the same goes for range hoods and dishwashers. In this kitchen there is a separate full fridge and freezer, each occupying its own full height cupboard. The dishwasher is fully integrated and the microwave is tucked neatly away in a cupboard. The rangehood is hidden in the overhead cupboards as is under cupboard task lighting to make a very practical work space. Undermount sinks also help to create a seamless and easy clean work surface. I prefer reconstituted stone surfaces for kitchens as they are practical and come in an amazing diversity of finishes.

Kitchens are such an integral part of making a house a home and should always be approached with care to ensure they not only function well but are beautiful.

**Kitchen Design: Horton & Co Interior Design [www.hortonandco.com.au](http://www.hortonandco.com.au)**

