

Bold spice

Chic and sleek are the key ingredients in this daring kitchen reno

Words **Eliza Hope** Photography **Mark Taylor**

The dazzling mirrored splashback is a design element that transforms this kitchen from a functional space to the sophisticated highlight of this apartment.

Adding even more drama are the daring black cabinets, finished in a lustrous wrap.

As well as adding reflective depth to a small space, these elements are a brave departure from the white, minimalist look, and correspond beautifully with the industrial style of this warehouse apartment.

Being a small space, a lighter colour was initially planned, but then Julia McAughtrie, kitchen design director at Made Living, had an inspired idea. "I thought why not go the opposite – something darker – and use

reflection for the illusion of space? Black doesn't necessarily have to close you in."

Julia worked closely with the owners to create a new kitchen on the same footprint. "The owners are keen cooks, so when their old stove died, they took the opportunity to create something more functional," she says.

Not only does the new design create more efficient storage and more bench space, it also adds an ideal dose of glamour.

"I love the challenge of small spaces. They are totally function driven," Julia says.

Careful analysis of the space ensured every part was used. Cabinets were installed above the sink (where there were none), with full-height cabinets added beside the stove.

Keen cooks will find much to like here,

BRIGHT IDEAS



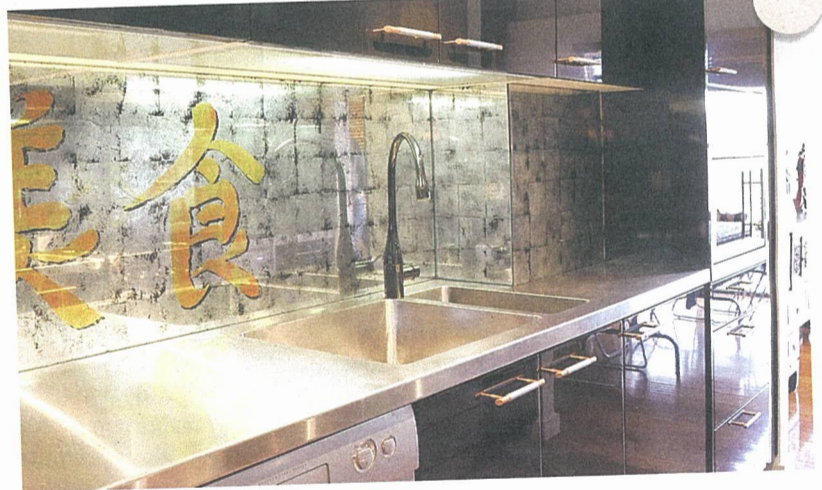
1 A mirrored splashback creates an illusion of space and a dramatic focal point. It's also practical and easy to clean. The Asian symbols – meaning 'fragrant' and 'beautiful food' – are printed in 23-carat silver and gold leaf on a mirror with a silvered, aged effect.



2 The integrated fluorescent lights in the glass shelves are both functional and decorative. They provide excellent task lighting over the benchtops – perfect for food preparation. They also direct light upwards to illuminate the interior of the cabinets and create a glow.



3 Careful use of space is essential for a small kitchen. The corner cupboard, with a stylish yet practical pull-out pantry system, is an inspired idea that makes use of what could potentially be dead space. The shelves have a 20kg weight-bearing capacity.



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from the recirculating rangehood to the 50mm-thick brushed-stainless-steel benchtops with integrated sinks. A six-burner stove, a dedicated spice cabinet and large pull-out drawers add to the room's functionality.

The Asian symbols on the splashback inspired an overall Asian theme, including the unusual copper and antique pewter handles. "The owners wanted an Asian influence – something that was urban." 🏠

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