



POSTCARD FROM MYKONOS

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A project conceived from inspiration and adventure, my deep involvement with my clients' passionate vision caused a revolution in everyone's expectations where creativity and functionality flourished.

Daniel and Ingrid, husband and wife. One a business manager, inspired by the building supplies he manages everyday.

The other on a path of health, home cooking, and everything travel.

This partnership sought for a qualified designer that could incorporate a preselection of supplies and a warm Mediterranean flavour into their kitchen.

With an uncompromising view on workmanship and quality, Daniel and Ingrid turned to me with a plea to build on their dream.



THE BRIEF

1 My clients' initial motivation to engage an interior designer was owed to Daniel's occupation. As the manager of building materials that were entering a domestic market, Daniel was constantly exposed to an exciting development of products. It was, therefore, integral to utilise these new supplies as often as possible in the kitchen renovation. I was also to use these supplies to highlight their efficacy in a modern, domestic kitchen.

RESPONSE
After browsing through my client's catalogue I was able to find a fantastic selection of materials to suit our needs. For the bench top I carefully selected a 12mm compact laminate CREASTYLE White Carrara AR+. It's success in commercial applications as well as its extreme durability and hard wearing finish. The black polished edge was used a subtle and stylish detail. The kitchen's cabinet doors were constructed from a durable WILSONART Ravenna Purity Pure Gloss laminate that came with a subtle wash effect. The doors were also accompanied by an Edge Strip which complements the bench top's black polished edge. The dining-facing cabinets were fitted with WILSONART Concept Oak timber-look laminate to bring a natural finish. Added to these cabinets was the black polish strip edge to maintain relativity to the rest of the kitchen.



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2 It was imperative that I remain within my clients' predetermined budget.

RESPONSE
I consulted my client's catalogue and my own resources to obtain materials that were from a "budget range" that didn't compromise on quality. My initial planning and foresight were crucial to addressing any effective details and how they might be approached within budget.

The greatest example of design efficiency in this project came from an orange shadow line. It's effectiveness became one of the greatest features. One feature wall was created using simple fittings. Wall cabinets with clear glass inserts and dark timber finishes for the interior set against an orange hue made a bold statement that would define the project, enhance the visual impact, and reinforce the brief.



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4 The connecting outdoor area had recently been renovated. An effective relation to the indoor space was desirable.

RESPONSE
I designed the kitchen in such a way that would ensure a harmonious flow between the two spaces.



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4 The existing floor tiles were laid recently to accompany the outdoor redesign, therefore, they were to remain.

RESPONSE
The kitchen tiles were used as influence in the creation of my style guide for the project. More specifically, the colour palette and texture selections.

5 Ingrid's travels abroad had left her with an even broader sense of culture and a taste for the exotic. Her favourite place to visit were the Greek islands; a design that is heavily influenced by this culture would see Ingrid's memories well kept and her inspiration burning.

RESPONSE
I avoided the obvious Greek clichés and used my experience to develop a style guide of Grecian inspired colours, finishes and details. The walls were painted with a white and burnt orange Taubmans Princess Blink/British Paints Exotic Terracotta that reflected Greece's highly regarded tradition of pottery. The dark timber laminate cabinet doors represent the Greek history of carpentry and ornamental carvings. The other cabinet doors were built from white, wash finished, glossy laminate to complement the ancient history of Greek art and architecture. The marble-look bench top laminate was used to further reinforce this cultural statement. A splash back built from Dulux FX39-018 deep blue metallic glass recreated the image of the sparkling blue Mediterranean waters that flowed around the islands.

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6 My clients' dedication to a healthy lifestyle and a gluten free, completely organic diet created a desperate need for a huge pantry that could accommodate this special diet.

RESPONSE
I identified a redundant passage existing between the living room and the kitchen. My recommendation to block this passage allowed the creation of a spacious niche for a French door fridge and a pull out pantry. The new passage this created was an epic spectacle; garden-like terrace steps constructed of dark timber and a water feature set against book leaf stone.

The dark timber laminate cabinet doors represent the Greek history of carpentry and ornamental carvings. The other cabinet doors were built from white, wash finished, glossy laminate to complement the ancient history of Greek art and architecture. The marble-look bench top laminate was used to further reinforce this cultural statement.

An additional two pantries, with drawers, were installed to further increase storage space.

By shifting wine storage and wine glasses to outside of the kitchen, even more space was created for even more dry food storage.

7 As a centre to the household, it was important that the kitchen receive a great amount of natural light as possible during the day and artificial lighting afterwards.

RESPONSE
The glossiness and white colour of the kitchen cabinets were a conscious decision that would see much of the light reflected about the room. LED spotlights and a light strip installed beneath the overhead cabinets provided strong lighting to an important, and potentially hazardous, place in all kitchens. Three pendant light fixtures over the breakfast bar ensured ample, optional lighting for the bar that also complimented the design. A special light box was installed above the fridge, effectively allowing additional day light into the kitchen area as well as the newly built powder room.

8 The health conscious couple were very aware of waste management and required fittings that would efficiently aid in this.

RESPONSE
Two 35L Integrated Hafele door mounted waste bins were a stylish and practical solution for larger waste. The Franke Waste Disposer Turbo allowed for the hidden disposal of smaller waste with minimum effort.



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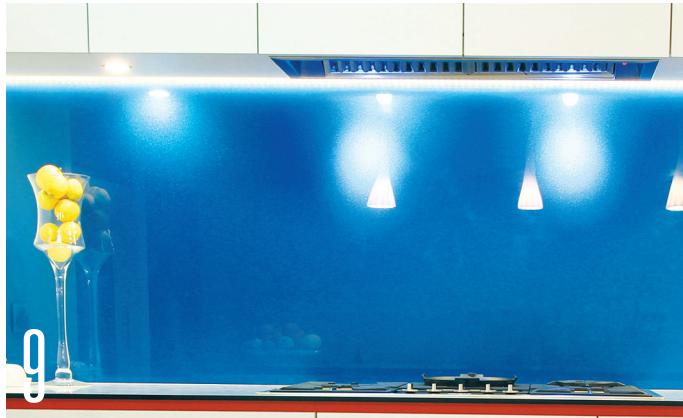


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9 The kitchen was to be a place for relaxation and entertaining. It was important to my clients that noisy appliances be kept to a minimum.

RESPONSE

The installation of a Highland Range Hood allowed ducts to draw air to the outside of the house through the ceiling. Its roof mounted motor meant there would be no noise heard within the kitchen.



10 Daniel and Ingrid's passion for home cooking required a high quality oven that would be suitable for two people.

RESPONSE

I selected the 600mm Miele U/Bench Oven H 5461 BP for its reputation in quality, durability and size. Its steel body and black accents accentuated my design style in consistency and light distribution.

11 To continue making home cooking and entertainment an enjoyable experience, a suitable dishwasher was required. It needed to accommodate platter, large dinner plates and cutlery.

RESPONSE

Naturally, selecting the Miele Dish Washer G 5775 SCVi XXL ensured a consistency in appliance aesthetic and quality as well as an effortless approach to cleaning crockery and cutlery.

12 Top quality was always an important feature for this project. It was highly important that all appliances and fittings would meet these standards.

RESPONSE

My careful selections were motivated by finding the highest quality appliances and fittings, addressing the budget, and then consulting my design. Below are the appliances and fittings that fit all of my clients and my own requirements:

Fridge - Samsung SRF639GDSS

Wine Storage - Vintec V40SGESS

Waste Disposer - Franke WD751

Range hood - Highland CHH9000EPR

Oven - Miele H 5461 BP

Cooktop - Miele KM 2256 G

Dishwasher - Miele G 5775 SCVi XXL

Sink - Franke NEX651RHD

Tap - Franke TA7011



THE RESULT

At the conclusion of the project, Ingrid and Daniel were overjoyed with the results. The unique and stylish accomplishment has inspired the couple to redesign and redecorate the remainder of the house; a very large compliment indeed.

The couple commented that for the first time they had enough room to store all of their food.

Consequently, the suggested move of the wine cooler to the outside of the breakfast bar has proven to be a lot more efficient and practical, not just for storage, but for frequent entertaining too. The vibrant colour scheme was a brilliant success and it often stirs memories for the couple of their Mediterranean getaways.

Ingrid remarks that the space is now fun and relaxing, there is no fault in quality anywhere, and cooking is an absolute pleasure. The functionality and flow of the ground floor has significantly increased since the conclusion of the project. The couple finally enjoys spending time in their living room whereas before it was primarily used as a corridor or reception/waiting room.