

THE SPACE

ANN PILMER



Two to the power of one



DESIGN TIPS

- Don't be limited by narrow doors or openings.
- A workspace can be easily incorporated – and disguised – in a kitchen.
- Design for how you live and will use a space.

DESIGNER AMANDA RICHMOND (REAR) AND MARG CAREY IN THE SOUTH YARRA APARTMENT.
PICTURE: SIMON O'DWYER

Designer Amanda Richmond created a kitchen with the lot in this small South Yarra apartment by making the kitchen and dining room one. External walls couldn't be touched as the apartment is in the classified Robin Boyd-designed Domain Park Towers, South Yarra, one of Victoria's first high rises, on the corner of Domain Road and Park Street.

This also meant wires couldn't be inset or "chased", so builder Kieran O'Donnell had to construct bulkheads to hide them and a sprinkler system.

The 18-storey building, built in 1960, has a wall of aluminium windows that look like the latest thing. Certainly there's no vast expanse of retractable doors, but there's a small door to a balcony.

This makes furniture placement easier, but the bonus is the view into the leafy elm trees flanking Birdwood Avenue, beside the Botanic Gardens.

"The lot" in that sleek, new space includes a cupboard laundry beside the integrated refrigerator, storage for the vacuum cleaner, computer and phone points, and a filing drawer, along with the latest appliances.

Owners Marg and Phil Carey are delighted with the transformation. Mrs

PRESERVING THE PAST FOR A BETTER FUTURE SET A SPECIAL CHALLENGE.

Carey is a keen cook, but keeps kitchen equipment to a minimum because she uses a Thermomix food processor that seems to do just about everything but serve food. "I haven't used a saucepan in two years," she says.

The original square kitchen had a servery to the dining room with a wall dividing the kitchen and living room. Now with the walls gone Mrs Carey can enjoy the view while she cooks or uses the phone or computer at the kitchen bench. "It's all here. I live in my kitchen," she says.

A small cupboard opening to the living room hides the vacuum cleaner. An ironing board folds away under the bench with an ironing/sewing cupboard underneath.

Ms Richmond also revamped the bathroom, bedroom and study where she and Mrs Carey are developing their new accessory business, Fourrures, making fur, leather and suede collars and cuffs.

The Careys moved two years ago from a large Victorian house in East Malvern. They did some serious downsizing with the overflow of furniture going to their house at Cowes. "I was a little apprehensive," says Mrs Carey. "But I don't feel claustrophobic even though I'm tall, because of the outlook and the space. The view envelops you."

Ms Richmond kept colours simple so they didn't detract from the view. She and Mrs Carey regularly walk among the gum trees near the Yarra River, so the colour scheme evolved to reflect them.

Cupboards are timber-look Laminex, paintwork is ecru and white. The kitchen includes lots of drawers and the pale granite benches are 960 millimetres high so Mrs Carey doesn't have to stoop.

Cantilevered cupboards with task lighting underneath went on the kitchen's back wall over the sink to give a floating effect. Wide oak boards covered the original concrete floor.

Ms Richmond included built-ins to maximise space and Mrs Carey worked with Zuster to get furniture that was right for the living and dining spaces.

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THE GALLERY



Design choices put to bed

Fashion designer Anna & Boy have collaborated with POP by Sheridan for the Melbourne Fashion Festival. POP is a digital concept that encourages shoppers to mix and match individual sheets, pillowcases and quilts to create a personalised look for their bedroom. The range is comprised of 40 unique looks – mostly bold patterns and strong colours. Anna & Boy has drawn upon these designs and created designer outfits from Sheridan's actual bed linen.

popbysheridan.com.au



Recycled timber tables

The Brown Dog Furniture Company is a operated by David and Tamara Gorrie, based on a 12-hectare bush property at Cape Otway. Since 2008, the couple have made it their mission to design and create classic, sustainable pieces of furniture that unite elegant aesthetics and an environmentally friendly approach by utilising reclaimed timbers from around the world. Their latest collection tells more than a story of salvaged woods. It is a series of tables, built from French oak sourced from large wine vats at the former Mildara Winery in Mildura. David Gorrie emphasises how the "unique timber not only highlights the striking French oak grain structure but also the red wine that has been so beautifully absorbed over time". The range comprises five tables – two dining tables, two coffee tables and a side table, each a slightly different size and design. The one constant is the rich recycled wood that provides the tabletop, and the look is a blend of modern aesthetics and solid, old-world style.

browndogfurniture.com

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