



*Europ plank  
Oak Legacy*

*Bevelled  
tiles*

*Dulux  
Sage  
Monica*

✦ The space between sink and island also serves as the walkway from the front of the house to the living room, so Andrew has allowed a generous width of 1.7m here.

✦ At 1900x1300mm, the island bench is big enough to accommodate social gatherings.

### Salute to the sun

As soon as they purchased this 1970s home on Sydney's Northern Beaches, the owners were desperate to remodel the kitchen. The original space was cut off from the rest of the house and contained a partition wall that obscured potential water views. The owners wanted an airy, light-filled room that would embrace the beachside location, with an eat-in breakfast area for casual family dining and greater connection to the rest of the home.

**The design solution** "It's modern-Australian beach style," says interior architect Andrew Waller, who devised the dreamy scheme of powdery blue and off-white. To open up the room, he knocked down the partition wall and raised the ceiling. Now the 5x5.5m space connects to an adjacent living area with views to the water. Coastal chic references abound, including whitewashed flooring and cabinetry in a V-joint profile that makes a subtle reference to tongue-and-groove weatherboards used in traditional beach houses. ▶

**Andrew Waller Design, Redfern, NSW;**  
0422 992 676 or [www.mrwaller.com](http://www.mrwaller.com).

### Ideas at work

**The colour palette and materials** are derived from the coastal location. "They reinterpret the classic beach house in a contemporary way," says Andrew.

**The joinery**, designed by Andrew and built by CMK Joinery, consists of built-in cabinets plus freestanding island and pantry units. "The pantry and island are designed as furniture," says Andrew. "This loosens the structured feeling of the kitchen and allows the space to feel more open."

**Colour** delineates the two styles of joinery: built-in units are painted the same white as the walls, while freestanding furniture is blue. This means the island and pantry become focal points while the wall joinery recedes from view.

### The details

**The island bench and pantry** are Tasmanian oak painted in Dulux Sage Monica, \$47/L.

**White cabinetry** is MDF with V-joints in polyurethane finish in Natural White \$42/L, Dulux.

**Benchtops** in 15mm Luna White engineered stone, from \$400/m<sup>2</sup> (installed), Quantum Quartz.

**Splashback tiles** are Abbey 75x150mm subway tiles in White Gloss, \$56/m<sup>2</sup>, Skheme.

**Floorboards** are Europlank Oak Legacy White Rustic Grade engineered timber, about \$121/m<sup>2</sup>, Havwoods.

**Miniforms Lechuck oiled beech stools**, \$721/each, Café Culture+Insitu.

**Pendant lights** are Brasserie Overhead pendants in Black, \$275/each, Emac & Lawton.

Text by Elizabeth Wilson. Photography by Nicholas Watt. For Where to Buy, see page 232.



### Appliances

Fisher & Paykel ActiveSmart 519L fridge. Smeg 34L microwave. Smeg 72cm five-burner gas cooktop. Smeg 70cm stainless-steel 90L oven. Oliveri Sonetto sink. Asko integrated dishwasher. Oliveri P2030 Essentials tap.

✦ Prior to the renovation, the kitchen was poky and had a low bulkhead concealing plumbing from an upstairs bathroom. Andrew redesigned the bathroom and raised the ceiling height in the kitchen.

✦ Andrew designed an appliance cupboard with a bifold door system that allows this busy area to be easily closed off when the family is entertaining, an important consideration when the kitchen is open to social areas.

✦ The island and pantry are raised off the floor on legs. This makes the space feel more open and is in keeping with the furniture in the adjacent living room.

✦ Floorboards with a whitewashed effect and the V-joint profile of the joinery play on the traditional Australian beach-house vernacular.