

in a traditional style





Implied history

Aged oak cabinetry plays a central part in this kitchen's traditional charms. However, the old-world look belies its high functionality

Creating a traditional look for a new kitchen need not be at the expense of modern-day convenience. For example, classic cabinetry façades might conceal high-tech drawer systems and dedicated, compartmentalised interiors where everything is placed within easy reach.

This project, by interior designer Ingrid Geldof, reinvented an existing kitchen and laundry to create more attractive and functional spaces that are still in tune with the residence's overall formal décor.

"The new kitchen inhabits pretty much the original space, but we added windows that wrap round the corner of the house to maximise natural light.

We also introduced a walk-in pantry," Geldof says. "Another structural change was to level the floors and stud heights to create an harmonious aesthetic flow right through the interior."

Geldof's design features two banks of oak-fronted cabinetry. The solid wood façades were made and installed by furniture-maker Ashton Grove, and are central to the kitchen's impact. They provide classic looks that imply history with every woodworking detail.

"The cabinetry has a solid, furniture-like feel. Cock-beaded drawer surrounds, floating panels, decorative studs and even cornices, all reflect the

Preceding pages: This classic wood-cabinetry kitchen is by interior designer Ingrid Geldof.

Above left: Panelling, beading, and cornices contribute to the cabinetry's handcrafted feel. The cornices tie in with other similar elements in the home.

Above: Stainless steel sinks and black granite counters were chosen to avoid standing out from the overall décor.



Architect: Chris Wilson
Interior and kitchen designer: Ingrid Geldof, NKBA (Christchurch)
Kitchen manufacturer: Sydenham Joinery
Cabinetry: Solid aged oak exteriors from Ashton Grove
Benchtops: Black polished granite
Splashback: Granite
Kitchen sink: Franke undermounted
Oven, cooktop, ventilation: Gaggenau
Refrigerator: Whirlpool
Dishwasher: Bosch semi-integrated
Coffee machine: Miele expresso, built in
Flooring: Timber

Photography by
 Jamie Cobeldick

handcrafted nature of the façades," says Geldof. "These are finished using traditional French polishing techniques, in conjunction with shellacs and waxes, to create a patina finish complete with myriad, hand-applied imperfections."

While the fronts appear old world, the cabinet storage layouts and operating mechanisms are decidedly new world. The oak exteriors conceal everything from ergonomic storage compartments, such as bottle pull-outs and spice drawers, through to smooth-glide drawer return mechanisms. There is even an appliance garage.

"However, the idea wasn't to hide all the mod-

cons away and pretend the kitchen was old. Rather, we wanted to create the general sense of the traditional – with the implied benefits of longevity, solidity, and looks that won't fall from favour."

Some appliances, such as the refrigerator, aren't swept out of sight, but the dishwasher is partially integrated, and Geldof also made provisions for the coffeemaker to merge into its environment.

"The coffee maker was in fact deeper than the cabinetry that appears to contain it. We hollowed out a wall cavity behind this cabinet to allow the machine to sit well back and not protrude out into the kitchen," says the designer.

Facing page: Dedicated storage spaces maximise cabinetry utility, while soft-close mechanisms make them a pleasure to use. A high-tech countertop steamer provides a good example of the kitchen's contemporary functionality.

Above: Similar wood flooring features throughout the house. Cornices on the cabinetry echo similar architectural features found elsewhere in the interior.