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SMOKE & MIRRORS

Clever use of space and materials ensures maximum impact in this compact kitchen.

ARCHITECT MATT GIBSON

Why did the client choose you? They had seen previous work and were socially connected through friends. **What was the brief for the client for the kitchen?** To provide a kitchen space towards the centre of the house, on a long thin site, that faces a courtyard outdoor eating space. The island bench was also to act as a breakfast bar and conversation area. This required part demolition of the existing cottage building and a contemporary addition at the rear to enable maximum functionality, solar penetration and flexibility of the space. **What was the approximate budget?** \$40,000 to \$60,000.

Is there anything you've used for the first time and would like to use again? Even though we have used the Symonite material [composite panels] before, we've continued to do so as many clients and colleagues request it. The mirrored fronts and splashback, also used before, give a feeling of space and a seeming continuity of material and form. **Were there any major challenges?** Fitting in all the functional requirements while enabling movement through the tight width of the site. **How long did the project take?** The full renovation took nine months. **What is your favourite feature?** The direct access to the external courtyard adjacent to the kitchen,

where summer cocktails and dinners can be enjoyed. Also the seemingly cantilevered aspect of the island bench. **What is the client's favourite feature?** After being suspicious about the porosity of the marble and maintaining the cleanliness of the mirrors, these are now their favourite features. They also love the 'breezeway' aspect of being able to open up the kitchen to the outdoor areas. **In hindsight, is there anything you would do differently?** Not really. We had site limitations of a 5-metre width, so the only possibility would have been enlarging the kitchen a little but this would have been at the expense of the dining area or the courtyard.

**FACT FILE**

Designer Matt Gibson of Matt Gibson A+D. **Builder** MMD Constructions.
Joinery Anton Gerner Furniture.
Flooring Blackbutt. **Benchtop** Honed Carrara marble. **Oven** Smeg SA360X/1.
Cooktop Smeg SA34AX1. **Rangehood** Smeg P52/2. **Refrigerator/freezer** Fisher & Paykel E442BRT. **Sink** Quadrato CR340D from Abey. **Paint** Dulux Vivid White; Symonite Altnum Bronze Metallic.
Extras or luxuries Silvered glass mirror splashback and island bench fronts.
For stockists see Address Book.