

# MODERN GREEN HOMES Sanctuary

INSIDE ISSUE ● 20+ kitchen & bathroom designs; natural pools; all-electric solar homes; green roof guide; renovated Sydney semi; efficient appliances; design workshop Blue Mountains + more

SPECIAL

## GREENER KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

### WIN

A home battery storage system from Enphase  
Offer open to Australian and New Zealand residents, details p87



PLUS

Optimise your solar system  
Ways to avoid eco-design pitfalls  
Cairns home adapted to the tropics

SUSTAINABLE STRATA  
Owner actions transform  
7 apartment buildings



## Straight from the garden

**INTERIOR DESIGN:**  
Megan Norgate of Brave  
New Eco

**PROJECT TYPE:**  
Renovated kitchen

**LOCATION:**  
Northcote, Victoria

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**  
Emma Byrnes

**A HARD-WORKING KITCHEN IN A HOME WITH**  
a permaculture garden in inner-urban Melbourne  
has been transformed for greater purpose and  
usability.

High-quality efficient appliances, no hard-to-clean surfaces or fiddly deep cupboards and everything the owners need within reach are the features of this kitchen renovation, in the same tiny, five-square-metre space as the original.

Designer Megan Norgate wanted to avoid a cold and minimalist outcome in an essentially cosy home, and instead merged functionality with an organic, homemade charm. One side of the kitchen became the utility bench with all the appliances. An induction cooktop, built-in oven, efficient 450mm-wide dishwasher and a tiny sink were included

under a stainless benchtop making a junction between wet and hot areas. Stainless steel is also less likely to be damaged and easy to clean.

Terrazzo floor tiles give the splashback a natural feel and minimal grout reduces the amount of cleaning needed. A reclaimed blackbutt drying/shelving plate rack was made and thoughtfully designed for plates and cups to drip over the sink area; cut-outs from repurposed plastic bread crates were used to line the shelves.

A distinctive salvaged red box eucalypt branch acts as a vertical element for a floating shelf over the island bench, marrying the utilitarian with the organic. The walls were painted in Murobond paints and energy-efficient LED strip lighting is recessed under the open shelving.

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#### SUSTAINABLE FEATURES

##### APPLIANCES

- Efficient 45cm Bosch dishwasher for small spaces
- Induction cooktop – no gas used in the kitchen.

##### MATERIALS

- Hand-made recycled blackbutt shelving/dish rack
- Post industrial waste terrazzo tiled splashback from Fibonacci Stone
- E0-rated laminate joinery
- Salvaged red box branch for structural support, air-dried and hand-whittled
- 100% recyclable stainless steel benchtop
- Dish rack drainage from recycled bread crates.

##### PAINTS, FINISHES AND FLOOR COVERINGS

- Tung oil timber sealants
- Walls in Murobond paints.

##### LIGHTING

- LED strip lighting.

##### OTHER FEATURES

- Tiny 5m<sup>2</sup> footprint
- Use of vertical space to support productive kitchen
- Wall-mounted dish drying/storage rack so drying dishes don't take up bench space.



## Opening to light

**INTERIOR DESIGN:**  
Megan Norgate of Brave New Eco

**BUILDER:**  
Macasar Builders

**PROJECT TYPE:**  
Renovation

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**  
Emma Byrnes

**HOW DO YOU RENOVATE A CALIFORNIAN bungalow to improve its thermal efficiency and make it brighter, more open and family-friendly?**

Designer Megan Norgate of Brave New Eco went to work, revising the layout of the house, opening it up internally through the centre and adding a small extension. A central, dark bedroom was turned into a study/play area, which leads into the 32-square-metre extension containing a new kitchen, walk-in pantry, bathroom and dining room. The space opens to a large outdoor deck and pergola and feels wider and more expansive thanks to a high-pitched ceiling and deep window seat running along the north side.

A new living room was created and a space heater installed to zone the heating into the highly insulated extension. Recycled deco double doors were used in the lounge room so it could be closed when watching TV and a new sliding door with fluted glass put in to separate the extension from the original house.

The main bathroom was also renovated, made larger by extending into the hall space. The existing bathtub was reused and a soft pewter finish chosen for the tapware to avoid the use of chrome. Handmade fish-scale tiles were chosen for over the bath and an art deco drinks trolley was repurposed as a bathroom vanity.





#### SUSTAINABLE FEATURES

##### APPLIANCES & FITTINGS

- Induction cooktop
- Quality high-efficiency appliances
- Low-flow tapware and toilets.

##### MATERIALS

- Post-industrial waste composite benchtops by Create Stone
- Custom recycled messmate joinery and timber-battened island return
- Locally made hardwood kitchen handles
- Handmade ceramic tiles from Middle Earth Tiles
- Pewter finish Astra Walker tapware
- Recycled art deco drinks trolley repurposed for bathroom vanity
- Re-used an existing bathtub in new location.

##### LIGHTING

- LED strip lighting
- Locally made lighting fitting by Volkerhaug
- Refurbished mid-century copper and perspex pendant lights.

##### OTHER FEATURES

- 'Cool room' walk-in pantry for dry bulk food storage. A floor vent in the pantry runs through the concrete slab under the house to draw a continuous supply of air cooled by the slab
- Curved bench edge to soften and ease 'choke point' where kitchen entry meets door to north-facing decking
- Kitchen flows straight to decking and herb/salad gardens.

##### OTHER FEATURES

- Open shower to bath wet zone design to maximise usefulness of long narrow space
- Filled an existing doorway alcove with recycled timber shelving.