

1. An interesting kitchen is assured when you select a timber veneer or laminate with a distinctive grain. You can increase the visual intrigue by running the grain both horizontally and vertically, as seen here. White walls and neutral tiles keep the look fresh.

2. Get your DIY groove on! Turn a laminated timber benchtop into a shadowbox-style arty 'display case' on the wall alongside a peninsula, topped with the same material. PS: Wire-caged pendants have a hand-crafted quality, providing welcome character.

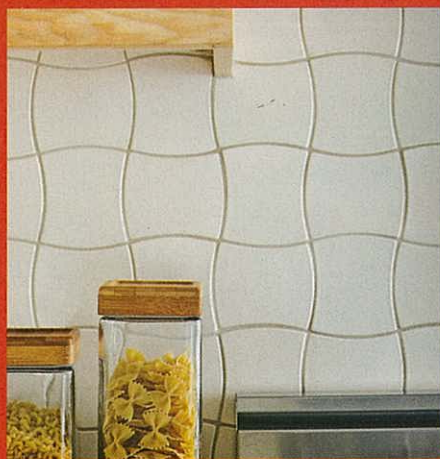


Designer insights >>

Splashback tiles come in a multitude of colours, patterns, sizes and materials, giving you style choices.

■ Make it your mission to source tiles more interesting than the typical subway tile. For a similar look, check out tiles inspired by the irregular patterns formed by aged plaster or cracked dry earth, D.R.Y collection matt tiles in Plaster (243 x 243mm), Di Lorenzo.

■ Carry splashback tiles up to the ceiling behind a wall-mounted rangehood, otherwise it can look unfinished.



3. The perfectionist in you will ensure your kitchen cabinetmaker aligns the distinctive timber grain perfectly between drawers and door fronts. And feel free to work with two types of timber species, as long as there's sufficient contrast – ash and walnut mix successfully here. For a bespoke quality, built-in pulls look the part and allow for cabinetry free of hardware. With the cooker, sink and dishwasher in one run (see left), consider installing a stone or quartz benchtop for these hardworking areas; here, repeated on the bar for balance.



get the look

Maison pendant, \$200, Brilliant Lighting.



IVV Speedy glass goblet (handmade in Italy) \$261 set/6 mixed colours, Noritake.



Hinkley bar stool, \$430, Boyd Blue.



Nespresso Breville Pixie Clips Capsule Machine in Black and Lemon (BEC450XB), \$349, Breville.

For shopping details, see Stockists page

Travertino in Navona Crema porcelain tile 600 x 1200mm, \$98/m², Mega Mart.

Pebble jars, 3 assorted designs, 19cm, \$54.95, Amalfi.

