



MODERN BY DESIGN

Andrew and Bernadine blended old and new to create their dream in the scenic Blue Mountains.

STORY LAUREN BROOMHAM PHOTOGRAPHY TONY POTTER STYLING KIRSTIN RANDL KATALINIC

TOP TIP
 "Design for yourself – what you love and want in a house – rather than what you think the market wants. This gives a level of integrity to a house that carries greater weight for many years rather than short-term trends."

After finding an old cottage, "untouched from the day it was completed around 60 years ago", Andrew was keen to start bringing it up to date. However, as a builder with 25 years' experience in designing and constructing new homes, as well as renovating existing ones, he knew the importance of getting the design right first. He and Bernadine spent six months developing their design, including preparing a plan with the help of an architect and commissioning drawings by an engineer. And once the work was approved by the local council Andrew's company began the extensive renovation.

MAJOR CHANGES

The first step was to demolish the existing kitchen and bathroom – not an easy task! Then the brand-new open-plan living space was added with a combined living, dining and kitchen area, plus a delightful outdoor deck.

The new kitchen is decorated in a modern scheme with gleaming polished granite benchtops and tapware from Paco Jaanson, and plenty of storage thanks to the Aber Laminati metallic iridescent laminate cabinetry that Andrew made and his company installed. Teamed with the stylish eight-seat dining setting by MT Design and

the deck, it makes the space perfect for entertaining family and friends.

Windows positioned high in the surrounding walls flood the room with light, creating a warm, open feel. Bright halogen downlights, sleek timber blinds and beautiful blue gum flooring add to the modern look.

The renovation process went smoothly and now the whole house has a light and open feel. And while all the rooms get a workout, especially when guests drop by, the kitchen is definitely the hub of the home. "It's a great space to be in," says Andrew. ■



Wall-to-wall glass windows and high ceilings enhance the sense of space in this contemporary home. The couple love to see the mountain weather through the wide windows.

KITCHEN ESSENTIALS

- CABINETS** Designed and built by Andrew Tartu using Abet Laminati metallic iridescent laminate
- BENCHTOPS** Polished granite
- FLOORING** Blue gum with studded rubber in the work area
- TAPWARE** Paco Jaanson

[far right] Timber flooring was installed throughout the main living area, with practical studded rubber in the kitchen work area.

