



# Room to move

A seamless lean-to provides extra space for this retro-style kitchen in a transitional bungalow

## What a difference a few added metres make.

The existing kitchen prior to this renovation had been poky and poorly oriented – the result of an earlier 1970s refit. As part of a reorganising makeover of the entire transitional bungalow, Architecture Smith + Scully created a seamless lean-to that added valuable space for the kitchen.

Architect Carolyn Smith says the additional metres and a reorientation of the kitchen – now opening to the outdoors and adjacent dining room – created a space that feels more generous than these changes would suggest.

“The new layout is contemporary in flavour

with its open connections and wealth of natural light, but the look of the kitchen is in keeping with the home’s 1920s origins,” says Smith.

“Elements like the butler’s sink, brass pulls, and subway tiles – not to mention the gleaming retro Smeg fridge – are all suited to the period.”

And while slender countertops are again the order of the day in modern kitchens, they also fitted well with the retro feel of this design.

There’s a lot of texture in the kitchen – the owners definitely did not want a minimal look – hence the panelled doors on the cabinetry.

“We added a hearth with shelving at the

back of the space, which also suited the period.”

The kitchen’s low ceiling had to be retained, constricted by other earlier reworkings upstairs. Exposed beams were part of this and now have feature pendant lights suspended from one of them – signalling the most social area of the kitchen, the island and pull-up stools.

“We extended the batten ceiling from the dining area for continuity,” says Smith. “And similarly, the existing floors were retained and reworked for a seamless flow throughout.”

These provide an ideal contrast for a kitchen design where everything is white or cream.

*These pages:* A modest extension beyond the home’s envelope and a reorienting of the tired, cramped existing kitchen resulted in a roomy feel in this period-look design by Architecture Smith + Scully. Classic elements like panel doors, brass pulls, subway tiles and a retro Smeg fridge all create a period feel – but the layout and access to various spaces suggest a more modern sensibility.



**Architect:** Carolyn Smith, Architecture Smith + Scully; project team – Sasha Hendry  
**Builder:** Swney Builders  
**Cabinetmaker:** Morrinsville Industries  
**Cabinetry:** Lacquered  
**Cabinetry hardware:** Blum hinges with soft-close, Blum drawers  
**Benchtops:** Caesarstone  
**Kitchen sink:** Robertson Industries  
**Taps:** Perrin and Rowe from In Residence  
**Splashback:** Subway tile  
**Oven, cooktop:** Falcon Classic Deluxe  
**Refrigeration:** Smeg  
**Flooring:** Matai from South Pacific Timber

**Awards:** Trends International Design Awards (TIDA) Kitchens – Highly Commended

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**Left:** The hearth-like joinery at the rear of the reworked kitchen calls to mind earlier times and provided design opportunity for display shelving and a glass display cabinet. The batten ceiling was continued from the adjacent dining room and the existing floors were retained and reworked to suit the new room and cabinet layouts. Subway tiles complete the picture of a classic kitchen in a classic home.