



This page, clockwise from top: The kitchen's stunning view; the Fisher & Paykel Gas on Glass Cooktop; Evelyn McNamara; bar stools fit with the black and white theme; George, McNamara's dog, seems impressed by the Fisher & Paykel oven. Opposite page: The Fisher & Paykel DishDrawer™ slides under the PSP Stonecraft bench; a red Vola tap adds colour.

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Listen to an interview with architect Evelyn McNamara on MiNDFOOD Radio. **KEYWORDS:** MCNAMARA, ARCHITECT

## COOKS BEACH KITCHEN

The kitchen of this Coromandel holiday home maximises space and makes the most of the view over Flaxmill Bay.

Words by **Carolyn Enting** Photography by **Dan Max**

The magnificent views from this Cooks Beach property inspired its Melbourne owner to buy the land and build a dream holiday escape for his family. With the expert assistance of architect Evelyn McNamara, that dream has become reality.

The open-plan living space of the main pavilion encompasses a beautiful kitchen and features doors that open up the front of the house completely, creating indoor-outdoor flow. The kitchen floor and deck are flush to make this transition complete.

Two independent pods have also been built to take in different viewpoints from the property. The reading and writing

pod has a sea view, bar leaner, small deck, wine fridge and bookshelf. The fire pit pod looks out over farmland and a valley, and features sunken seating in the garden and a brazier gas fire – a great place to enjoy a glass of red wine.

The pods are connected by a boardwalk, and the house's exterior is painted black to blend in with its backdrop of native bush.

"The black looks really stunning against the bush. We decided to make the exterior black and interior white, and that theme flowed into the kitchen," McNamara says.

"White is a fantastic way to get light into a space."

### THE BRIEF

For the house design, the key instruction was to maximise the view. That brief extended to the kitchen, which has a 180 degree view that encompasses Flaxmill Bay, the deck, fire pit and reading pod.

The hub of the house and a central vantage point, the kitchen's bench top becomes a resting place for a laptop as well as a place for cooking and socialising, providing a relaxed space for family or guests who are welcomed into the open-plan living area on arrival.

The design of the kitchen is minimal, with appliances and storage integrated so there is no visual clutter. "The idea is when you leave, you can put everything away. It becomes part of the furniture or joinery when you are not there," McNamara says.

### THE SPECS

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| <b>SPLASHBACK:</b> Alarti marble from Artedomus.                | lacquered MDF.  |
| <b>BENCHTOP:</b> Quantum Quartz from PSP Stonecraft.            | <b>BAR STOOLS:</b> White and black oak by Tim Webber. |
| <b>TAP:</b> Vola  | <b>OVEN:</b> Fisher & Paykel Wall Oven.               |
| <b>FLOOR:</b> Dark stained American oak with wire brush finish. | <b>RANGEHOOD:</b> Fisher & Paykel.                    |
| <b>CABINETRY:</b> Stained solid American oak.                   | <b>COOKTOP:</b> Fisher & Paykel Gas on Glass Cooktop. |
| <b>ISLAND:</b> White  | <b>REFRIGERATOR:</b> Fisher & Paykel.                 |
|   | <b>DISHDRAWER:</b> Fisher & Paykel.                   |

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The red Vola tap was chosen by the client to add a playful element as well as some colour, while the oak cabinetry has a slightly translucent stain so you can still see the timber through it.

"It still has texture to it, it's not a flat black gloss, which I think is important for this house as it's not an urban apartment, it's a farmhouse," explains McNamara.

This attention to detail was also applied when selecting appliances for the kitchen. The integrated DishDrawer, oven, refrigerator, rangehood and cook top by Fisher & Paykel create "an island of white against a stark black canvas".

