

# Farmhouse *fab*

*A mix of large-scale, semi-industrial and textural elements result in a kitchen that combines form, function and beauty.*

STORY *Elizabeth Wilson* | STYLING *Julia Green & Aisha Chaudhry*  
PHOTOGRAPHY *Armelle Habib*

“Whether you’re standing in the kitchen and looking along the island or looking through the space out the windows, this kitchen was built with beautiful sight lines in mind,” says designer Kate Walker.





“To emphasise the symmetry, the kitchen detailing and rangehood align with the fireplace in the adjacent living room,” says Kate. “They are a mirror image of each other.”

### KITCHEN *design notes*

**WINDOWS** 3D Windows.

**JOINERY** Slimline Shaker-style doors in textured American oak veneer, Farmers Doors. Island joinery finished in Porter’s Paints Jeep.

**CABINET HARDWARE** ‘Series 96001’ handles and ‘Series 2163’ knobs, both in Antique Bronze, Domino Architectural Brass Fittings.

**SPLASHBACK** Zellige Bianco matt ceramic tiles, KWD & Co.

**BENCHTOPS** Infinity Quartzite, KWD & Co.

**TAPWARE** Perrin & Rowe ‘10’ two-hole bench-mounted mixer with metal levers, round spout and spray rinse, \$1801, The English Tapware Company.

**SINK** Acquello fireclay double sink, \$1995, The English Tapware Company.

**APPLIANCES** Nostalgie 1200 freestanding cooker and rangehood, Ilve. Integrated fridge/freezer, Liebherr. Dishwasher, Asko.

**LIGHTING** Barbara Barry ‘Capitol’ wide lanterns in bronze with silk shade, The Montauk Lighting Company.

**FURNITURE** Olivia barstools, Globe West.

**WALLS** Dulux Snowy Mountains Quarter.

**FLOORING** Mill Valley engineered European oak boards, KWD & Co.

A ‘*European farmhouse aesthetic*’ was what Lucy and Steve Cahill had in mind for their whole-home renovation on Victoria’s Mornington Peninsula. And their new kitchen – the centrepiece of the revamped home – encapsulates their vision, brought into being by interior designer Kate Walker, principal of KWD.

Working with a 6.6x4.3-metre space, Kate assembled a medley of materials and fittings to conjure the sense of a chic barn conversion. Key to the look is the textured oak veneer joinery, selected in a slimline Shaker-style profile, from Farmers Doors. The under-bench cabinetry and tall joinery wall have a natural weathered oak finish, and the island joinery is painted in Porter’s Paints Jeep. Another must-have was the freestanding cooker. “We chose an amazing Ilve bronze oven which works perfectly for the design style,” says Kate. There’s also a focus on textural touchpoints, from the timber door fronts and leather-finish Infinity Quartzite benchtops to the polished plaster rangehood and chalky-effect, handmade Zellige tiles on the wall.

Everything in this space is generously sized to match the scale of the architecture. This includes the all-important central island. It measures 3.1x1.7 metres with seating on both sides, so it serves as a stylish dining space as well as a food preparation area.

Making the most of the lofty space (the ceiling is 4.3 metres high at its highest point), Kate installed customised arched timber windows, which impart a European flavour and fill the room with light. “We wanted to make sure there was a view from the kitchen sink,” she explains. “And the oven had to be central because we wanted to create a traditional chimney effect.” From there, the rest of the layout was formed on the basis of zones. There is a cooking and preparation zone (cooker and island), a consumables zone (pantry and fridge) and a cleaning zone (sink and dishwasher). “It’s a contemporary kitchen built around outlook, flow and functionality,” says Kate. ▶

**KWD;** [katewalkerdesign.com.au](http://katewalkerdesign.com.au).