



# Country Home Ideas June, 2015

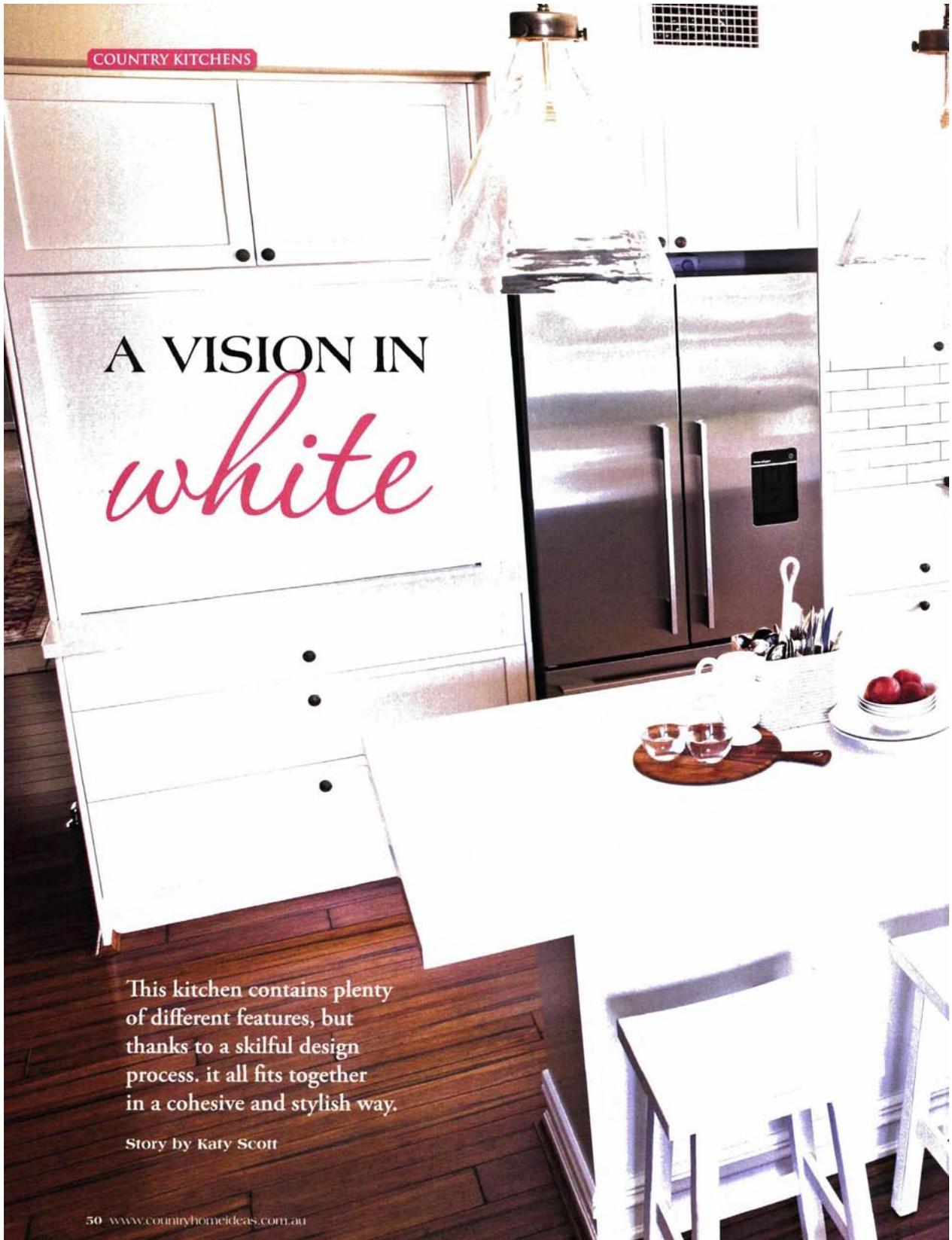
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COUNTRY KITCHENS

## A VISION IN *white*

This kitchen contains plenty of different features, but thanks to a skilful design process, it all fits together in a cohesive and stylish way.

Story by Katy Scott

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Trish removed the original white tiles on the floor and replaced them with bamboo floorboards.

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**TOP:** Trish and designer Dana devised a colour scheme that was focused on white, but had warm tones.

**ABOVE:** The butler's pantry area provides a handy out-of-the-way spot for the extra sink and oven.

**A**fter Trish, Matthew and their three children moved into their house in 2009, they knew it needed some improvements. They repainted the walls, replaced the carpet, added some built-in carpentry and gave the house some general upgrades. Then finally, it was the kitchen's turn to be renovated.

The original kitchen had cheap cupboards and a round bull-nosed bench top that extended from the wall. White tiles were on the floor, but they were poorly laid and some had cracked. "All the main areas of usage like the fridge, toaster, oven and dishwasher were located in one small part of the kitchen making it very difficult for five people to use, especially at peak time in the morning!" Trish remembers.

### A PROFESSIONAL TOUCH

A new kitchen was Trish's chance to turn the area into the heart of the house – ideal for everything from family dinners to catch-ups with friends and neighbours for drinks. "I wanted it to be a crisp white, but casual for everyday use," she says. Essentials included two ovens as the family entertains a lot, as well as two dishwashers so dirty dishes could be kept off the sink and bench. "I also wanted a zone where the kids can access drinks and snacks without being in my cooking zone," Trish says.

She hired Sydney Kitchens to bring her vision to life. Sydney Kitchens specialises in handling the entire kitchen creation process from design to build, so Trish worked with one of the company's designers, Dana, to plan the kitchen. With so many different features and elements, it would have been easy for the area to look crowded, but the careful design process meant that all of the essentials could be accommodated while keeping the aesthetic of a clean, uncluttered kitchen. Susan Hasler, General Manager of Sydney Kitchens, says that since Trish had such a clear idea of all the features she wanted, Dana just needed to put the vision together in a practical yet stylish way. "The design is quite complex as there are a lot of areas in the kitchen – there's quite a lot of detail," says Susan. "Dana did a remarkable job."



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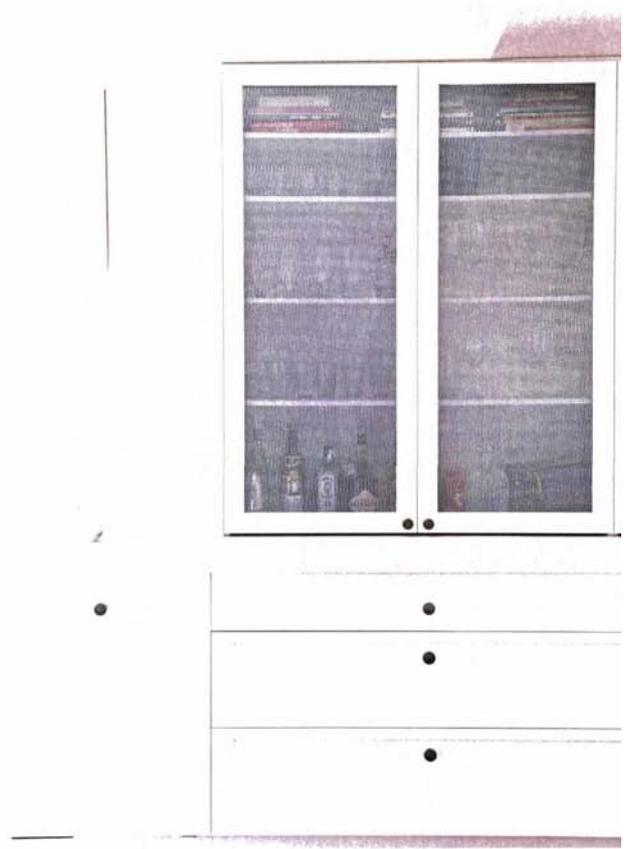
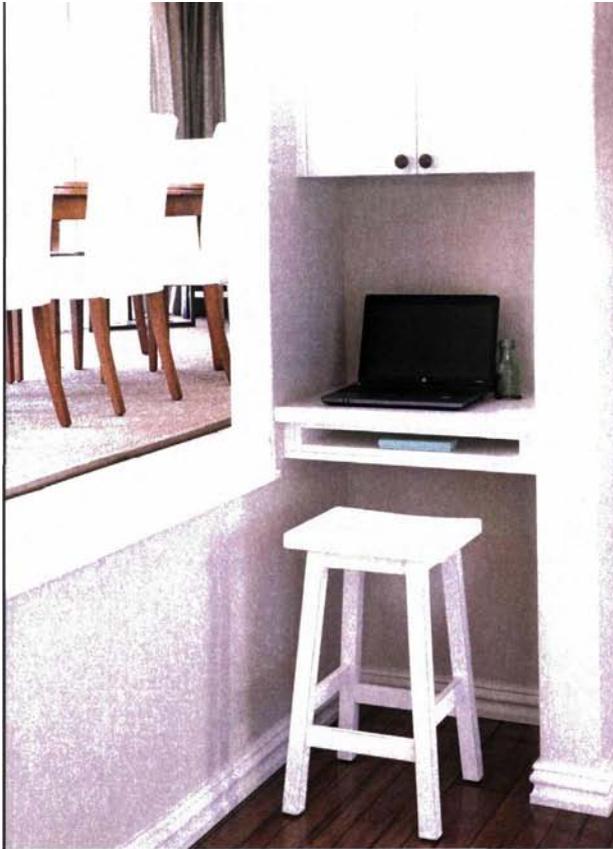
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### SOCIAL SPACES

As the kitchen area occupied an L-shape, Dana and Trish created a butler's pantry-style area in the smaller part of the L, which housed a preparation sink and the extra oven. "I wanted somewhere for the coffee machine and dirty dishes to be hidden when we had guests," says Trish. "It works really well!" The main kitchen area has a large island bench, which is Trish's favourite part of the kitchen. "I have coffee there with girlfriends, Friday night drinks and nibbles with family and neighbours, and we eat there as a family – it's a very social space," she says. And underneath the island bench is an unusual feature: two wine fridges. "My husband really wanted these," Trish explains. "I was a bit resistant but they are brilliant. They free up heaps of normal fridge space and when we are entertaining outside it is very easy to access wine."

### KITCHEN ESSENTIALS

Stove – Wolf  
Sink – Oliveri  
Dishwashers – ASKO  
Fridge – Fisher & Paykel  
Wine fridges – Vintec  
Wall paint – Dulux Parchment  
Flooring – Bamboo floating floorboard  
Kitchen design/construction – Sydney Kitchens

The cupboards and drawers around the kitchen provide plenty of storage for other items, especially the wide, deep drawers. And the appliance cupboards mean that appliances are easily accessible yet hidden away when not used. "Often when you install a set of appliance cupboards, it can look quite cluttered," says Susan. But with careful planning, Dana managed to fit them in without interrupting the general flow of the kitchen – plus their location towards the edge of the kitchen means that appliances can be used by several people without everyone having to squeeze into a corner.

### STUDY ZONE

Another essential for the kitchen was the computer area at the side. As Trish is often in the kitchen at the end of the day but still needs to read emails and look up information, she decided that a small desk was the perfect addition. "In the last kitchen I had my computer sitting on the kitchen bench and it took up too much room as well as getting covered in cooking grease," she remembers. In the old kitchen there was a set of ugly drawers to the side, so she turned it into a little study nook in her new kitchen.

With all the different features this kitchen contains, it would have been easy for it to look cluttered – but Trish has ended up with a beautiful yet functional kitchen that's perfect for cooking, entertaining and simply catching up with a glass of wine. ■

**TOP LEFT:** The study nook provides a place for Trish to keep an eye on emails and look up information while she's using the kitchen.

**TOP RIGHT:** Tall cupboards and deep, wide drawers provide plenty of storage space.