



Textural Attraction

TEXT KIRSTYSIER | PHOTOGRAPHY TOM BLACHFORD

Some of the most beguiling characters are those that are a bit conflicted. In the case of Prahran Kitchen, this is made manifest in an intriguing clash of textures.

Charisma is a hard thing to pin down, and requires great nuance on the part of its owner. It's not just about being bold and beguiling; it's also about knowing when and how to blend into the background without losing that magnetic quality.

In Prahran Kitchen by Melbourne-based interiors studio Pipkorn & Kilpatrick, charisma comes from contrast. But it didn't come naturally. The challenge the designers faced was to inject character and modernism into the existing kitchen, which was "quite dated", according to Anna Skermer, one of three practice directors.

To amend that, the designers leaned into a new, more tangible material palette, heavy with natural materials and texture. Light-wood chevron pattern flooring was contrasted with a dark, grainy wood for the island bench, which

was fitted with brass "to feel more like a piece of furniture rather than an extension of the kitchen joinery". These characterful features were tied together with grey, white and other neutral panelling. To complete the effect, the tapware was powder-coated to blend in.

A big part of the client's request was to bring in light, whether natural or artificial. "Because they lived in the space prior, they knew what was missing and what was lacking," says Anna. "The use of lighting was important, and we tried to get some feature lighting in there to zone the island bench area as the main social hub." The final coup was the addition of a skylight, which runs the length of the kitchen and fills the space with sun and a sense of greater space.



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Prahran Kitchen

ARCHITECT Popkorn & Kilpatrick

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FINISHES

European Oak Chevron parquetry flooring. Combination of solid and veneer Australian Blackwood for island bench. Half strength White Duck 2pac for under bench joinery and Natural White 2pac for tall perimeter joinery from Dulux. Honed Carrara marble on benchtop/shelf return. raw brass custom joinery pulls on island bench.

FURNITURE

Ercol Svelto barstools from Temperature Design. Wassily Chair design by Marcel Breuer from Knoll.

LIGHTING

Rubn Arkipelag pendant from Fred International. Deep Star downlights and Boxy ceiling mount canister lights from Inlite.

FIXED & FITTED

Neptune double sink with drainer from Franke. Icon kitchen mixer from Astra Walker. Cooktop, oven and dishwasher from Bosch.

ARTWORK

Katarra Butler Napaltjarri through Papunya Tula Artists