



Above: Sue found the country kitchen dated and dark.

Left: Granite benchtops reflect the light in this modern living space.

The Dezignatek cabinetry is in Antique Cream, and apart from four cupboard doors on two pantries, drawers provide all the storage. The walls are in quarter Resene's Canterbury Clay, and the new matai floor, which matches the rest of the house, was laid by another East Tamaki company, Armitage Timber Floors.

After an extensive search, all appliances came from different manufacturers. Sue loves the Westinghouse double fridge with water and ice dispenser on the door. The oven, a 90cm French brand Scholites, was chosen for the hob sizes and the one oven is large enough to feed the extended family.

The Asko dishwasher is installed in the island bar, and the under-bench microwave on the opposite bench works well too. A concept new to Sue is a real winner – boiling water from a tap. “Filtered water could have been added for extra, but we had to draw the line.”

Sue has high praise for the Creative Kitchens team headed by Ernie Downes and Mark Morrow. “Everything we expected happened when we expected it,” says Sue, who adds the family now enjoys the spacious new hub – a true reflection of the busy and sociable clan.

Creative Kitchens Limited
Unit C, 30 Kerwyn Ave, East Tamaki.
Ph 274 1484, Fax 274 1438
www.creativekitchens.co.nz

Rugby pivotal to kitchen design

When Sue Ah Kuoi wanted to renovate the kauri kitchen in her 1920s California Bay villa, her friends thought she was mad. But Sue found it dark and dated, and luckily, she didn't have far to look for a company to create her a new one.

Her husband John plays rugby with Ernie Downes from Creative Kitchens, and aside from being mates, the Ah Kuoi's had seen several kitchens the company designed and installed for friends and were impressed with every one.

“I knew I wanted a new kitchen that suited our older-style home, a granite benchtop and soft-close doors, but when I looked at the finer points of design, I needed help.

“I visited Ernie, who drew up the initial plan. This included shifting just about everything around. The single sink was removed from under the window, with a double version included in a new island bar. The oven was shifted from one side of the kitchen to the other, plus the fridge to complete the work triangle. It all made sense once I got my

head around it, and Ernie's design pretty much formed the completed kitchen.”

Sue wanted help with colours and finishing touches too, so Ernie recommended Howick interior designer Sharon Dann. It's often said, start on one room and the others cry out for attention, and since the pair were introduced a year ago, Sharon has assisted Sue with the décor in every room of the house bar two – the dining room and lounge – which are soon due to benefit from the deft Dann touch.