Episode 39: Kitchen Design Essentials

Splashbacks

https://www.whitepebbleinteriors.com.au/splashbacks/

Hello, and welcome to the next episode of My Forever Home the podcast, the Kitchen Design Essentials season. We are now in episode six, overall in the kitchen design essentials season of the podcast and I'm really excited today to be bringing you this episode all about splashbacks. Now, I am particularly excited about splashbacks because I feel that it's a fantastic opportunity to inject your own personality into your kitchen and to inject just a little bit of, colour or texture or something a little bit different, even if you've got a completely white kitchen.

I feel that a Splashback can really differentiate your kitchen from anyone else's and just make it uniquely yours. So this is a particular favourite of mine when I've ever done a kitchen for myself, but it's a big, favourite of moment as well when we're specifying for clients, I just wanted to note, that I'm recording this.

On the 4th of August, this will actually go and be released as a podcast tomorrow. But I suppose today is the day after, the Victorian premier has announced that we're going into stage four lockdown, which has a big impact on businesses. So it's sort of a funny day to day waking up and knowing that the world, as we know it is going to be quite different for the next six weeks in Victoria.

And, personally, White pebble interiors have been in a position to serve clients remotely for some years now simply because we have clients both regionally and interstate, so all over Australia. So we've got the systems and processes in place to be able to serve clients and because we do such a wide variety of work in terms of joinery drawings and elevations, as well as doing specifications, much of that work can be done without needing to go into a studio and so, there will be so many things that we can continue to do, the team has been working remotely now for, for many months because of, you know, the outbreak of COVID-19. But I suppose I just wanted to address it because, yes, we're based in Melbourne. Many, many of our listeners are that many, many of our listeners are also based, outside of Victoria, but I just felt that, yeah, I don't know.

There's just a funny, Sort of a strange feeling today as we wake up in what will be a very new world for us over the next six weeks. So, you'll hear this tomorrow and it will be two days in and, yeah, it's, it's, it's a strange time. So anyway, let me get back and put my kitchen hat on and let's talk about splashbacks.

So I'm going to go through many different types of Splashback options. In fact, I'm going to go through, seven to be precise and, and just go through what you need to consider and then how, I suppose you need to choose. And some other things that you need to think about in my view, the Splashback, can be.

And often is the design lead in your kitchen. So what I mean by that is you might have your heart set on a particular color style shape of Splashback before you even start thinking about what your bench top may be. And I call that the design lead and that's what the rest of the materials are determined by the fact that your design lead may be your Splashback to give you an example.

When I was designing my kitchen my forever home kitchen, where the materials were very much a reflection of what I love, what I'd been waiting years nice to be able to do so that it was completely my fixation on what I loved and so there was a particular tile by Patricia Urquiola a very famous and very versatile, incredible designer.

And she has amazing tiles that she designs for Mutina. And these tiles have been around for over 10 years and I'd always loved them. I'd always dreamed about having them in my home. And so I knew for the forever home that they would be the Splashback and they were in tones of gray, which is not what I normally gravitate to.

And I didn't want the multicolored ones. I wanted it to be monochromatic. So the entire kitchen was designed around from a material perspective around these tiles, knowing that they were going to be the Splashback. We have many clients who really love a particular tile that they want for their Splashback.

And again, the kitchen is designed the other materials, the benchtop, and the cabinetry, all those colors are all designed around the Splashback. That may be the other way around for you that there's a particular natural stone that you're in love with. And then that is the design lead. And that then becomes, what all the other materials, I determined by is around the particular benchtop stone that you've chosen so often it is the Splashback and I think it's awesome because the splash back is an opportunity to inject color.

It's an opportunity to inject texture even if you are having a Splashback color that is. Very similar and quite monochromatic to your cabinetry and your bench tops. You can still create a little point of difference by perhaps having a tonal change or you've got, you've got shape, or you've got texture.

That there's something that you can have in that splash back that makes it a little bit more special, even if you do want it to be all very, very, very similar in color and tone. So that's one, the thing to think about your Splashback and the other one is how do you choose? And that comes down to

maybe the colors, the style of kitchen you're going to have, whether it's an easy to clean, splashed back, whether you want it to be a feature or not.

Whether you want to have shape or whether you want to have texture and these can sometimes become a little bit daunting for people it's more, I'm not sure how that's all going to work with. Yes. I have a splash back in mind, but how does that work with everything else that we're going to be doing?

And that may be where you, get someone to be a sounding board for you or help you select. So what are the different types of Splashback the first one that I'm going to talk about is stone now this can be, I'll firstly, talk about reconstituted stone. So if we're thinking about things like Caesarstone, Silestone ,Esses stone smart stone, whatever brand it is, a reconstituted stone has got a lot of, it's, it's basically, bound by resin.

So it's not something that can be used as a Splashback for a naked flame. And I've seen a lot of, I've seen a lot of people get picked up on this that they've really had their heart set on. Having that seamless look where the benchtop basically then wraps up to the wall, the rear wall and become a Splashback.

This is possible with natural stone. Because it is a stone and there aren't any, polymers or resin binding that product together so that can be used as a natural, sorry, as close to a naked flame. They won't be any problems there, but reconstituted stone cannot be placed behind a gas cooktop because the reason It could flame, so it doesn't meet regulations.

But having a stone, whether it's a reconstituted stone or a natural stone, move back, you know, as you've got your bench top, and then it becomes seamless up, as a Splashback is, is a look that some people really like it's unified, it's seamless and it basically just is less materials and sometimes less is more so it's very sophisticated.

But just bear in mind around the reconstituted stone easy to clean, and you know, it's a great option. The other one is porcelain, a porcelain product. And I don't mean a tile where you've got porcelain top. And again, you can create a similar effect by wrapping that up and creating that same as look by having it as the Splashback.

You can do the same with Dekton. So I'm going to talk about them in a very similar way. They can also be used in the same way as stone, same aesthetic as the stone seamless finish. But the advantage with having porcelain or Dixon is it is fire resistant. So you can actually have that as a naked next to a naked flame, and it's not going to be impacted by gas cooktop.

So that is definitely an option. And if that is your bench top of choice, you are definitely going to be able to wrap that up and use it as a bench top. The other option, which, look, Is still, coming up as a, as a query from clients is glass and glass was really big in the nineties as this be all and end all, you know, you've got these one material.

There's no saying generally speaking, And, you know, it was really big in that time personally, I'm not a big fan. I find it quite bland. I just, I feel that there's no personality in using glass. You need to be mindful of the fact that like any glass, it needs to be cleaned regularly, depending on how you you're cleaning and when the light hits it, it can look really streaked.

It can be quite expensive. You need to know exactly. Where your GPO is and anything, any other cutouts are going to be before it comes on site, it can be quite tricky to get on site. And it's, it's really not the most cost effective option around. But the other thing that people are not necessarily aware of is the fact that, because glass has that gray team, sorry, the green tinge to it.

Whatever's behind the glass will actually change color. And I've seen many; many homeowners have the glass Splashback put in. And then of course, they've got the same color as the wall and they're like, Oh, it's a different color. And that's because the glass has got a tint in it with, even if it's transparent glass, just like with a shower screen, it's got that green tint in it, which means that whatever's behind it will actually have a different color behind the glass. So I'm not a big fan. And unless someone is really passionate about glass and they might have their reasons for that. I sort of try and offer other alternatives other than using glass. I think there are so many more products available that are just so much more interesting than glass.

Then there's also a mirror. Mirror is quite sophisticated and it's also fantastic for when you're trying to reflect space, create an illusion of space. So they're great for in smaller kitchens where you really want to be able to enhance the appearance of its size. And I suppose the other thing we mirror is.

Just like glass, it needs pretty much daily cleaning. It can also streak and, and so it. It is going to come into the same sort of category as glass, I suppose. It's also quite expensive but when it's bronzed, you can get tinted mirror. It looks super, super sophisticated. And I think if you're quite happy cleaning it, I think it's a fabulous option, but just be aware that.

You know it; it will need a little bit of maintenance and regular cleaning. The other really popular one at the moment is the window Splashback and if you've got some greenery or some sort of landscaping outside with that view, then I think it's a fabulous option if you're just going to be looking at a paling fence.

Maybe not such a great idea if you're just going to be looking straight into your neighbors. Also, maybe not a great idea, but if there is definitely the intention to have some sort of greenery, on the, on the other side of that window, then I think it's a fabulous outlook. You're bringing the outdoors in sense of calm, really, really beautiful.

What you do need to be mindful though, about window and this is has come up quite a bit with, with clients of ours is it will need cleaning every time you, you know, cooking so if it is behind the stove, just like glass, it will need daily cleaning. You'll have, you know, spatter of fats and so forth.

Yes. We need to talk about the realities of life so It's not always for everyone, just like glass may not be a, we've got a client we've got, that had window, the entire length of her kitchen. And she said, I

don't want to be cleaning this every day. It's going to drive me absolutely crazy. So we put in a Splashback for her tiled.

Splashback still got a lot of window in that kitchen but at least now we know it's going to serve her and its going to be functional. So yes, you need to marry. What, weigh up the looks the aesthetic versus the functionality and the cleaning requirements to work out, which splashbacks going to be best for you.

Tiles, Now these would have to be my absolute favorite because I think tiles can just do and be so many different things. I think they add so much personality. There's color, there's shape there's texture. There's so much variety out there and because you generally only need a small amount of tiles, it is generally a lot more cost effective.

So even if a tile is. You know, a particular amount, a square meter. It may seem gaspingly expensive, but because you only need a small amount, you may only need a couple full of square meters. It actually becomes quite more palatable. Once you look at it, just really how many square meters you really need to do that splash back.

So make sure you're considering that and not just looking at the square meterage rate, work out exactly how much you need and really how much that, complete Splashback is going to cost you. So you can generally up the budget on your tiling per square meter for a Splashback for that very reason. So I just think with the, with the amount of tiles available at the moment, yeah.

There is just so much to choose from and it's a really fantastic opportunity to inject some color, to inject a different shape. You may have a completely, the same color as your cabinetry, but you're going to have shape, or you may have the same color as your cabinetry, and you're going to have.

Texture, or you may use it as an opportunity to have color, but I think it's such a fantastic way. Even if your entire kitchen is white, that you have this Splashback, that then injects something completely different. I've got clients that are going, he's a photographer and he's doing an amazing, Oh, this is sort of moving away from tile, but I just thought of it then.

And he's, he's creating one of his own photos to be his splashback. So that's so personal. There's so much work. That's gone into that. And that means so much. And that's not necessarily tiles, but I suppose my point he is, you know, use it to reflect you. And also, you know, everyone talks about, Oh; I don't want to play it.

Sorry, not everyone, but a lot of our, I don't want to plain white kitchen. I want something a bit more. Well, you could have plain white, or an off white or whatever it is a plain color, but still inject something, with your Splashback so that your favorite color, think about your favorite shape. Think about a texture that you like.

And use that as part of your Splashback. I think it's just an, it is really one of my favorites, it gets me really excited. One of the biggest, pushbacks we get. Yeah. With regards to tiles is this illusion, that

grout is an issue. Now there are a couple of things I've got to say about grout as a Splashback and these, the seas, I suppose, more prominent in kitchens and bathrooms, people worry that.

If they've got grout and especially if it's a white ground, behind, you know, you start, you're going to have your spaghetti sauce and all your other types of cooking, splattered all over that grout. And it's never going to be clean. Well, firstly, you can spray seal the grout and it basically means that you just wipe it off the ground, just like you would a tile surface.

It's very easy to clean. And I know this, not just because you know, I hear people talk about it. I've lived in this scenario. I've had in my previous homes, I've had, white grout, lots and lots of white grout because I've used very small tiles and it's been spray sealed and it is just wiped clean.

So I've lived with this, I've experienced it. It is not an issue. The spray seal is really easy to apply. The other thing that is now available is an epoxy grout, and this is a non-porous ground, which means it won't, expand and contract and it won't discolor. So you could always use epoxy grout. if you're really worried about the ground scenario, So tiles, definitely a big tick, big, big favorite of mine.

The last one I wanted to talk about was a product called Metaline. And this is fantastic for people that are doing a makeover and they don't want to rip out the Splashback. They really just want to, they really dislike this flashback. It's really dating the kitchen or it's a bugbear of theirs. So Metaline is a product that.

Perhaps looks a little bit similar to glass or one sheet of something it's slightly reflective, metallic finish. The beauty of it is it's only three mil thick. So what that means is it could just about in most scenarios, be able to be overlaid on top of your current. Splashback be that glass be that tiles, whatever it may be, as long as you're, Range hood is far far enough forward that you can have a three mil attached to the Splashback.

The current Splashback, it can be applied directly. And the other beauty of it is it's in big sheets and it can be cut and easily installed by cabinet maker, which is not possible with glass or mirror, that one needs to be done offsite. So it is really easy to install. It's great for make-overs because it's really cost effective.

And, look, it's not going to give you masses of personality. But it is definitely something that we've used a lot, because it's very easy to install. And if you are doing a, look I make over and just want to go over the top of what's already there. Yeah, it's fantastic. I probably wouldn't specify it for a renovation or a brand new kitchen.

In a new home, because I think there are so many other options available, but for a makeover and something that you just want cosmetically overhaul without ripping out a whole kitchen, it really is a go to product for me. There aren't limited colors. There's probably about nine different colors has a similar effect to glass, but look, it's really cost effective and I, and I've used it lots and lots and it's just been fabulous.

It's not that well known so, you know, give it, you know, have it have a Google it's a Laminex product. It's by Laminex. The other thing that you need to think about finally for your Splashback is the GPO. And, you know, you go to all this effort of having this magnificent looking Splashback, you've got a really magnificent tile.

And so you need to think about the locations of the GPO goes for your Splashback. So do you have them at the side so that it doesn't affect the aesthetic of this beautiful tile or whatever it is that you've got? Do you then use popup GPO? Is there are other options available? Do you need to make sure that the GPO is the same color?

As the Splashback, because you really want the GPO in that particular real location, but just think about that because sometimes you have this magnificent Splashback and then, well, bang right in the, the middle of it. Is this a GPO that we don't really need to highlight because we really want to make the Splashback the feature piece and that the standout piece, not the GPO's.

So that is, lots and lots of information for you to take in on Splashback. And I hope that then I trust that that has given you, lots of things to think about. And you know, if I'm ever going to suggest something, it's definitely going to lead you down the toll route, but don't be swayed by me. You need to go, as I always say, with something that you love.

Now for those of you on the webinar last week, the kitchen or the forever home kitchen master class, while we did, we have a fantastic turnout, it was just wonderful. it was just so lovely to have so many people are on the webinar and, you know, the, the, the kitchen consultation that I offered absolutely just, was not sold out, but it was a free consultation that I offered.

That just went within minutes. So it was just fabulous to have so much engagement. I we'll definitely be doing another one soon and there'll also be some more, resources available for kitchens. It seems to be just an area that people need more and more help with. Make sure that you check out the website.

We offer so many different types of kitchen packages. So for make-overs for renovations or kitchens for brand new homes, it could just be the materials that you need help with. You need a sounding board, or you need us to choose the materials for you, create a shortlist for you. It could be that you need kitchen design as well as joinery design, or you need both.

There's so much flexibility with what we provide in our fixed price packages. So check out the website. We are actually going to be uploading more and more information on the kitchen area because there's only one package that's featured, but reach out, by all means Booker chat. It’s also available on the website.

You get access to my diary, Booker chat with me, and we can certainly go through, how you may need support and through this time of COVID. We can do all of these things for you even though where the, you know, businesses are in lockdown for the next six week, we're still open. We still are catering. We always have had systems and processes in place for regional and national clients.

So we are still available to be able to do all the joinery design or whatever it needs you need to be done for your kitchen. Open for business, business as usual for us. So next week, we'll be coming up to episode seven of the kitchen design, kitchen design essentials podcast season. I look forward to having you on the show next week for joining us on the show next week.

And, I certainly hope that you've, got lots of information about splashbacks today. Reach out if you've got any questions and until next week. Bye for now.

END OF TRANSCRIPT

MY FOREVER HOME PODCAST with Frances Cosway

www.whitepebbleinteriors.com.au

Book a Chat
www.whitepebbleinteriors.com.au/chat

Design Hours Bundle
www.whitepebbleinteriors.com.au/other-services/design-hours-bundle/

Floor Plan Sanity Check
www.whitepebbleinteriors.com.au/other-services/floor-plan-sanity-check/

Your Forever Home Book Free Download
www.whitepebbleinteriors.com.au/download-free-ebook