

## **The Client Brief**

### **Challenges and Achieving the Client Needs and Requirements**

The Clients purchased this 4<sup>th</sup> floor apartment overlooking one of Sydney's favourite beaches having rented a lower level unit in the same building for three years. With both of them working from home, there was a dual need to not only satisfy the requirements of a hectic home life but also to ensure that the renovation accommodated their social wishes. When purchased, the unit was a three bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom serviced apartment which typical of the era built, provided little open space and cramped living and sleeping conditions.

This renovation had to create an open natural living environment; paying particular attention to the colour based tones reflected in the clay vase purchased some years earlier in Pisa, Italy – a vase which remains central to the overall mood of the apartment. By removing walls in the existing kitchen area and the third bedroom, and closing the existing powder room door, this complex challenge was fully achieved. Paying careful attention to task lighting and curved ceiling features, the owners in consultation with the designer formed a plan to invigorate the unit into a fashionable, quality living apartment where living and working conditions merge as one.

The kitchen renovation and to reflect the above challenges and with the ocean in full view from most parts of the unit, a balance of tones and moods needed to be attained. Specific to the needs of the clients were items such as a large pantry and second fridge area (which had to be concealed) and a large open bench area for entertaining, pot drawers, larger than usual refuse point (convenient for apartment existence) use of all available wall space without encroachment or a feeling of a reduction in size, storage with access from the lounge, a modern Mediterranean feel reflecting the proximity of sand and sea, generous work and preparatory surface areas.

#### **Summary of Client Requirements**

- Mix hectic home work environment with an entertaining lifestyle
- Open natural living environment
- Tones to match an Italian vase central to the mood of the apartment
- Large pantry, two fridges, pot drawers
- Large refuse point as apartment on fourth floor
- Use of all available wall space
- Mediterranean feel, remain in touch with sea and land
- Sufficient (ample) work and preparation surface

#### **Building Obstacles and Project Challenges**

- Fourth floor apartment with restricted access
- Little open space
- Cramped living and sleeping conditions

- Limited time frame for project completion
- Both clients heavily involved in media commitments
- Walls to be removed
- New dropped curved ceiling
- Air-conditioning pipework and extensive gas pipework in place.

### **Summary and Solutions**

The final blueprint and subsequent quality installation reflect in full the clients' needs. Striking yet soothing, the overall design combines all the clients' wishes and more. The central theme of reflecting the tones of the focal vase, maintaining an ambience with the closeness of the sea and sand missed with a delicate Mediterranean sense.

A mixture of subtle surfaces such as Orchid White gloss doors, rippled blue slumped glass, mirror sparkle benchtop with bevelled edges, vivid blue and flamenco coloured splashbacks and barbacks, large pot drawers in abundance, horizontal satin handles, fully integrated appliances, large refuse point, use of all wall space combining practicality and aesthetics. Sweeping preparatory and convenient landing areas greatly enhanced the area into more than just a kitchen..

The completed project has fully delivered all aspects of the clients' original requirements, the silky presence of significant features combined with stylish and elegant décor has transformed this once normal abode into a striking and harmonious residence - an apartment now fully reflective of its prime location and client needs and wishes.