

MATERIAL MIX

The surfaces used here are more than beautiful – they'll also stand up well to life with teenagers. Benchtops are in Elba marble, a luxurious stone with low porosity. The flooring mixes durable bluestone tiles and hardy blackbutt, while joinery is limed oak and stained Victorian-ash veneer.

Zones of influence

21 This turn-of-the-century Melbourne home was remodelled and enlarged to provide more space. Its owners requested a contemporary open living area with clearly delineated zones for various functions.

WHY IT WORKS "The living area has a wonderful feeling of space, with views extending to the outdoor area and a 5m-high ceiling that seems to float above," says architect Geoff Challis. Sliding doors open to create an entertaining area that blurs the boundary between inside and out, as does the splashback window. Clerestory windows fill the interior with light and changes of flooring material define functional zones. A butler's pantry provides discreet extra storage and a place for appliances.

OWNER'S VERDICT "We love bringing people into this room for the first time – there's a huge wow factor. It has such a fabulous sense of space and light." ➤



Geoff Challis
Principal, Venn
Architects; (03)
9682 4222 or www.vennarchitects.com.

Photograph by Derek Swalwell.