



**Above top:** The owners of this Brisbane kitchen, a couple with young children, chose cabinetry painted in Resene Dark Knight to add elegance to their Queenslander. Pair Resene Dark Knight with green-based whites such as Resene Half Thorndon Cream or Resene Rice Cake.

**Above bottom:** To achieve a hardwearing finish Kitchen Evolution sprayed Resene Lustacryl semi-gloss waterborne enamel in Resene Dark Knight over Resene Waterborne Smooth Surface Sealer and Resene Quick Dry waterborne primer undercoat.



Choose Resene AquaLAQ to add colour to your kitchen joinery. This range is especially designed for cabinetry, furniture and joinery and includes an Environmental Choice waterborne sealer, colour coat, which can be tinted to your chosen Resene colour, and a clear coat.

# mad about blue

Blue – the colour of sky and sea – is a natural choice for two superb kitchens.

**T**he nursery song *Sing a Rainbow* has it wrong; there are far more colours to choose from than seven, which can make it a bit daunting when painting important rooms such as kitchens. The kitchen is for more than just cooking. It's where families come together, a place for talking, laughing and sharing the day's stories, which makes blue – the colour of calm – a welcoming choice.

Whether it's a light grey-blue hue or a bold and bright turquoise, few colours refresh a dull kitchen quite as well. Strong or subdued, airy or moody, the colour breathes life into every element, from walls and cabinetry to trims and accents. ➤

Resene  
Rice Cake

Resene  
Dark Knight

Resene Half  
Thorndon Cream



**Left:** Despite the saying, “Blue and green should never be seen,” Resene Bismark and Resene Rainee work together beautifully in this Tasman kitchen. Designer Hannah Hebson says she chose Resene Rainee for the kitchen island to bring a freshness to the open-plan space while also complementing the home’s countryside surroundings. The walls are Resene Bianca and the ceiling is Resene Alabaster.

## Bold and beautiful

When the owners of an early-1900s Queenslander (see page 55) decided to update their kitchen, they sought out Brisbane-based Kitchen Evolution ([www.kitchenevolution.com.au](http://www.kitchenevolution.com.au)). The brief was clear: “They wanted a timeless aesthetic suited to the remainder of the house as well as room for the family and space for entertaining,” says the company’s Dane Hancock. The homeowners were also adamant about one other thing – it must be bold and beautiful. So, they chose Resene Dark Knight, a slate blue, for the kitchen’s shaker-style cabinetry.

“The liked the look of the dark blue against the rich honey colour of the pine floor and the original brick fireplace,” says Dane. “From there, it was just a case of selecting the right tone to complement the stone benchtop. They didn’t select blue for anywhere else in the home, which makes the kitchen a standout feature.”

The rich hue of Resene Dark Knight adds character to the room and brings a sense of elegance, he says. Designed by Peter Barrass and built by the Kitchen Evolution team, the striking space features a mix of classic and contemporary elements. The combination of generous bench space and storage plus state of the art cooking appliances also makes it a functional hub.

“The darker blue colour complements the timber beautifully, giving the kitchen a nice warm feel. The benchtops (veined quartz from the Smartstone Athena collection) are a beautiful contrast to Resene Dark Knight. The colour brings out the character of the white stone.”

## Shades of nature

“The saying goes, ‘Blue and green should never be seen’,” laughs kitchen designer Hannah Hebson of Nelson’s Cooper Webley Joinery ([www.cooperwebley.co.nz](http://www.cooperwebley.co.nz)). “But that’s completely flipped on its head when you see this beautiful room,” she says.

“The clients – a couple with boys in their early teens – wanted a country kitchen that was fun and colourful. It needed to make a statement among the white walls that were used throughout the house. But from the start, they were torn between having a blue and green kitchen.”

At first, she says, she was stumped. “We rarely get clients who want to be that bold with their cabinetry.

## Blue horizons

The walls of both of these kitchens, each open-plan, were painted white to fit in with the rest of the home. But, in standalone kitchens, cabinetry in shades such as Resene Dark Knight and Resene Bismark are equally impressive teamed with blue-toned walls. For example:

- Team a moody, impactful shade such as Resene Dark Knight with an equally stormy shade such as Resene Tangaroa or Resene Coast. Other blue-based shades that work well with Resene Dark Knight are Resene Kashmir Blue and Resene Escapade.
- Pair a teal blue such as Resene Bismark with Resene Botticelli and Resene Moby, both muted grey/blues.

“It’s usually the same white-on-white or woodgrain accent. But I was excited by the challenge. I played around at first with darker tones, but they still wanted the kitchen to be light and bright.”

Hannah says she knew she was onto a winner when she found the colours Resene Bismark and Resene Rainee. “The teal blue of Resene Bismark and the mint green of Resene Rainee tied together perfectly and, when teamed with the timber benchtop and patterned tile, created the exact look they were after.”

The new-build home, in Nelson’s Redwood Valley, has glorious views of forests and farmland. Hannah says that part of her brief was to allow enough space around the work zones so that her clients could “spread out” when prepping, cooking and cleaning. In the original architectural plans, the hob, oven and tall storage were combined on one small wall, which wouldn’t have given them the space they required. So, she repositioned the hob under the window and specified a deep bulkhead for the ducting. The bulkhead frames the windows and also allows for task lighting in the kitchen’s prep zones.

She says the selection of a white stone benchtop and a wooden countertop to ‘break’ the cool blue hues makes the room welcoming. “These materials and the two colour choices, paired with Resene Bianca walls makes the space successful. The large window, which bathes the kitchen in natural light, works well with the colours.” **H**

**images** Dane Hancock, Grant Stirling [www.grantstirling.com](http://www.grantstirling.com)  
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Resene Dark Knight  Resene Bismark 

Resene Coast

Resene Tangaroa

Resene Kashmir Blue

Resene Escapade

Resene Botticelli

Resene Rainee

Resene Moby

Resene Bianca

Resene Alabaster