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ISSN 2253-5311
9 772253 3 31002
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\$11.90 — Autumn 2019



Rich, lively tones

“This kitchen sits within an open-plan living area, with a living room on one side and a stacked kitchen and dining area on the other. It is a horseshoe shape, with cabinetry rising to the clerestory windows and cupboards to the side screening the kitchen from the living area. Sitting on stainless-steel tubular legs, these cupboards appear to float above the spotted gum floor. The rich, lively gaboony ply is complemented by a copper splashback running along the generous back bench and copper down each side of the island bench. The open cupboards are clashed with solid spotted gum and the rangehood is faced with black steel, picking up on the other fire elements in the house. With all of the services at the back, the island bench is a simple set of drawers and a breakfast bar. Lighting above the island can be raised and lowered with a touch and hidden LEDs under the shelving provide a beautiful wash to the copper as well as task lighting.”

— Nicola Herbst, *Herbst Architects*

At one with nature

“The interiors of this bathroom are an extension of the architecture, which influenced the materiality and form of the bathroom. As the roof lifts up, a clerestory band of windows offers glimpses of the surrounding trees and light reflects off the unstained birch ply roof lining. In contrast, the stained walls pick up on the theme of the bush and are in keeping with the palette throughout the rest of the house. A glass mosaic Bisazza tile provides a beautiful translucent quality while the small module shapes the base of the shower and bath without the need to cut tiles. In response to the compact building platform, the bath forms the base of the shower, with a hinged obscure glass wall folding back over the shower rose to allow for bathing. Blades of stainless steel form a shelf in the shower as well as a formed, shaped vanity, while the spotted gum flooring throughout the house continues into the bathroom.”

— Nicola Herbst, *Herbst Architects*



Kawakawa House, Piha. Photograph: Patrick Reynolds.