



## Mt Eden KITCHEN by Rowe Baetens Architecture

Photography by Samuel Hartnett

In a living space that's been carefully crafted and curated, it's important that the kitchen doesn't compete with its surroundings, rather it enhances them. In this respect, architect Tom Rowe had a very clear vision of the look and functionality of the kitchen seen on these pages.

"The design of the kitchen is conceived as a machine where everything is concealed – kind of the complete opposite of a French country kitchen. It's a city kitchen, where you want cleanliness and utility, but not stainless steel," says Rowe.

The solitary 'feature' in this kitchen, in an otherwise white landscape, is the Titanium Black Granite splashback and benchtops. "We chose each of the slabs very carefully," says Rowe. "We didn't want too much movement in the pattern on the benchtops, although on the splashback we wanted more colour and life."

In keeping with the architect's goal of keeping the space simple, there are no reflective surfaces in the kitchen. The cabinetry is matt and the granite, honed – finishes that are serviceable and forgiving of children's fingermarks. Even the tap and sink on the island are coordinated to blend in with the benchtop. And there are no handles on the cabinetry – only slots and push-catches.

This simplicity has not been gained at the expense of functionality, however. All the usual appliances are here, and there's a large pantry and small-appliances area hidden behind two large sliding doors next to the fridge.

Being a new build, Rowe was able to also make decisions on the size, shape and position of windows and doors. Apart from the huge aperture at the end of the space, he inserted a wide, narrow-height window above the cabinetry on the back wall and an extra-tall outside door to its side. "Both allow light and shadow into the house, but still remain private," he says.

Artificial light is achieved through direct, narrow-beam spots recessed high into the ceiling directly above the island benchtop, casting light only onto work surfaces and carefully placed to avoid shadow. 

## Material Selector

**01**  
**Progetto Tube kitchen mixer with rinse spray – black**

\$699  
plumbline.co.nz

**02**  
**Miele G 4920 dishwasher**

\$1399  
kitchenthings.co.nz

**03**  
**Titanium granite splashback**

\$POA/m<sup>2</sup>  
italianstone.co.nz

**04**  
**Smeg PGA75-4 cooktop**

\$2599  
smeg.co.nz



### Practice

**Rowe Baetens Architecture**  
70 Ponsonby Road, Grey Lynn,  
Auckland 1011  
(09) 360 7412  
rbstudio.co.nz

### Practice profile

Rowe Baetens believes architecture has to be publicly accessible, and that any concept should be driven by the needs of the client. The firm brings not only the strong design and professional fabric of the office to

every project, but also the ability and desire to incorporate within those projects the individual elements of culture and people.

### Project team

Tom Rowe, Saskia Baetens, Jan Bittner

### Builder

Lindesay Construction

### Consultants

**Kitchen manufacturer:**  
DJS Cabinetry

### Products

**Cabinetry:** 16mm MDF core with

deziignatek thermoformed panels

**Cabinetry hardware:** Extruded

handles from Mardeco;

Blumotion by Blum

**Sliding doors:** Topline M by

Hettich

**Sink:** Franke

**Splashback and benchtops:**

Granite from Italian Stone

**Flooring:** Turkish marble tiles from Italian Stone

**Paints and varnishes:** Resene

**Lighting:** Lighting Solutions

**Taps:** Progetto Tube kitchen mixer

with Rinse Spray from Plumblin

**Oven:** Miele H 2661 B

**Cooktop:** Smeg PGA75-4

**Dishwasher:** Miele G 4920

### Time schedule

**Design & Planning:** 12 months

**Construction:** 6 months

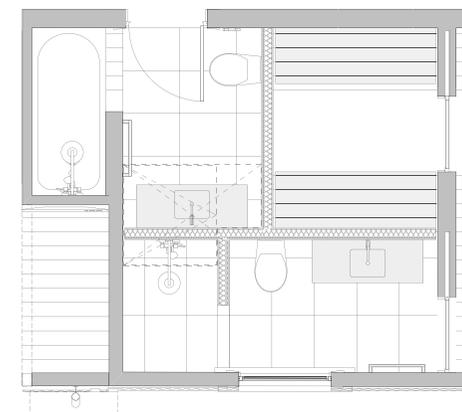
### Project areas:

**Site size:** 445m<sup>2</sup>

**Building area:** 200m<sup>2</sup>

# Mt Eden BATHROOM by Rowe Baetens Architecture

Photography by Samuel Hartnett



**W**hen we asked architect Tom Rowe what the inspiration was behind these twin bathrooms, he smiled and came back with a quote from one of New Zealand's favourite sons, Ernest Rutherford: "We didn't have much money, so we had to think."

The problem facing Rowe was finding a cost-effective way of getting light and ventilation into these two tiny bathrooms within the constraints of a 100-year-old villa.

His solution was to use a single automated skylight to service both rooms and to create a *mise en abyme* – a term derived from French heraldry, which literally translates into 'placed into the abyss'. In a physical sense, the term describes the visual experience of standing between two mirrors, then seeing as a result an infinite reproduction of one's own image.

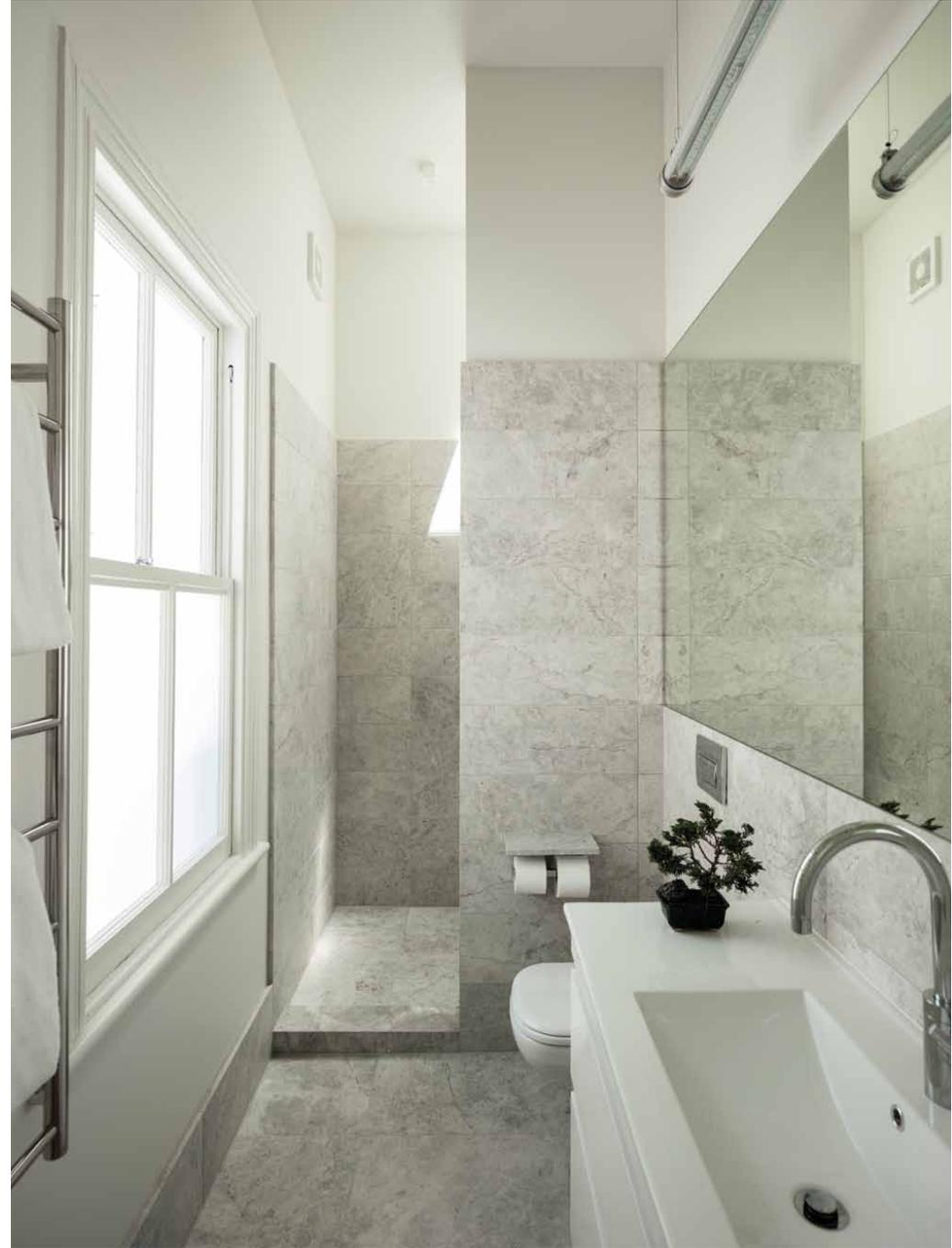
"Because of the complicated roofline it took much thought in deciding where to place the skylight," says Rowe. "Its position then determined the layout and the location of the bathrooms below."

As can be seen in the accompanying elevation, the shared skylight works like a huge chimney, playing on the pressure differential of air between outside and inside, sucking out the steam and moisture, and at the same time allowing light to filter down into the bathrooms. "It works extremely well," says Rowe.

Large mirrors in both bathrooms give the rooms more visual space, and the toilets and vanities are all wall-hung, adding to the illusion of space. In the family bathroom, Rowe has even managed to squeeze in a bathtub, with a shower above.

Both areas are clad in a type of marble that Rowe had seen on his travels – in one of Turkey's oldest bathhouses, in Bursa. "The marble has this incredible quality," he says. "It's like flesh. It doesn't just reflect light, it also has a translucency about it."

One of our favourite design details in this bathroom is the toilet-roll holder – a simple rectangular offcut of marble that juts out above the toilet rolls, concealing the double roll and providing a shelf. 



## Material Selector

### 01 Jersey 9-bar heated towel rail

\$270

[plumbingworld.co.nz](http://plumbingworld.co.nz)

### 02 Tundra Grey marble tiles

\$171/m<sup>2</sup> plus GST

[italianstone.co.nz](http://italianstone.co.nz)

### 03 Custom vanity with deiznatek thermoformed panels

\$POA

[deiznatek.co.nz](http://deiznatek.co.nz)

### 04 Chiaro pendant by Norlight for Castaldi Lighting

\$960

[lightingsolutions.co.nz](http://lightingsolutions.co.nz)



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### Builder

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### Consultants

**Kitchen manufacturer:**

DJS Cabinetry

### Products

**Vanity:** 16mm MDF core with deiznatek thermoformed panels

**Bath:** Caroma

**Tapware:** Caroma Liano wall basin mixer (2); Caroma Liano bath/shower mixer

**Toilet:** Caroma Marc Newson Wall Hung Invisi Series II toilet suite (2)

**Shower fittings and taps:** Koha Satinjet shower slide by Methven from Elite Bathrooms

**Flooring:** Tundra Grey marble

tiles from Italian Stone

**Heating:** Sunflow underfloor

**Lighting:** Chiaro 1200mm pendant by Norlight for Castaldi Lighting

**Skylight:** Velux

**Accessories:** Jersey 9-bar heated towel rail

### Time schedule

**Design & Planning:** 12 months  
**Construction:** 6 months

### Project areas:

**Building area:** 200m<sup>2</sup>