

TAKE A SEAT

21 In this eastern-Sydney home, the clients sought a dining room with banquette-style seating that accommodated their antique table, and was oriented towards the views. The space needed to be robust and practical so it would no longer be used as a thoroughfare.

Why it works This dining nook is anchored by the banquette seating and encourages family interaction. "The over-sized pleated light creates an intimate space for eating," says interior designer Alena Smith. "We wanted the area to be inviting, without compromising the clean lines of the interior." As such, the materials draw upon a neutral palette. **Owners' verdict** "It's no longer just about dining. The area also serves as a retreat for reading, working and playing due to the comfort of the bench seating."



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WRIT LARGE

22 "My clients wanted a highly contemporary space that included some of the raw materials from their inner-city Melbourne heritage building, which was originally horse stables," says architect Andrew Simpson.

Why it works The kitchen is designed as a series of freestanding sculptural forms that divide the larger open-plan space into discrete zones for living and dining. High-gloss paint and a polished-concrete floor accentuate the sense of volume and light; the colour palette draws upon the hues of clouds and sky.

Owners' verdict "We enjoy the play of light and space. A welcome bonus is that guests gather in the kitchen to engage in conversation. We like the fact that it's not constrained by a ceiling or any walls." >



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Photography by Maree Homer (this page), Christine Francis (opposite).