

# National Kitchen & Bathroom Awards 2011

## Melanie Craig won **Best Kitchen Design** in New Zealand at the National Kitchen and Bathroom Awards 2011.

The judges comments included, *“Fresh, unique, original – a lot of thought went into this design. Total originality made this design the winner.”*

The kitchen was designed for a home in Wanaka, where a complete renovation took place. This kitchen is on display from all areas. The blueprint evolved from the island, constructed of exposed plywood, stainless steel and supported by a trestle leg. Stainless steel was used for beams supporting high floating cabinetry, and the main bench that extends onto the deck. The concrete backdrop was achieved by slicing and applying the raw block face only. A second kitchen behind an electronic roller door contains a sink, appliances and storage.

Melanie is the youngest ever designer to win this award and is one of only two woman to win the award in the past 10 years.

*As well as winning the supreme award for New Zealand, Melanie also won Creative Excellence and Most Innovative Kitchen and was the Southern Region winner.*



Over 50 kitchen designs were accepted for the awards, but the panel of six judges were unanimous saying total originality made this kitchen the winner and contrast from the sleeker European kitchen designs that have dominated the awards over the last few years. This kitchen oozed uniqueness and the judges loved the kiwi/retro feel this kitchen delivered, mixing sleek lines while celebrating the rawness of materials. The judges congratulated Melanie on her innovative originality and attention to detail in her kitchen design.

Melanie is very excited about her prize package, sponsored by Blum, which is a trip to Milan in 2012 to the Eurocucina International Design Expo and also an extensive advertising package. Melanie's kitchen will also compete in the American Kitchen Design Awards.

Melanie said being a young designer and starting a business in the heart of a recession has been no easy feat but she loves the industry and has solid drive and passion to create. She believes in New Zealand products and the future of New Zealand design in many areas and on an international level. Melanie works with business partner and interior designer Gaynor Rodgers to complete entire unique home design having studios in Gore, Timaru and Wanaka.