

# Modern take on tradition

The changes made to this 1920s Queenslander are nothing short of spectacular, writes Sandra Killen



**F**ROM the street, the only giveaway that there's something unusual about this 1920s Queenslander is the modern take on the paling fence.

Everything else seems much as it should be – gabled roof, casement windows, weatherboard walls.

On closer inspection, you may notice an L-shaped front veranda that spills gently to the front lawn, more like a deck than your traditional veranda.

But once inside, prepare to be gobsmacked. Interior walls have gone and where once was an external wall now is a massive sliding window that takes you straight into the treetops.

The dramatic extension that's grafted to the rear of the house is such a bold design it's hard to believe you're in the same house that you entered.

Architect Richard Kirk designed the extension to create a large family home requiring a range of living spaces to accommodate the diverse activities of the clients and their four teenage children.

An incredibly detailed staircase with timber battening over polycarbonate sheeting is designed as a "celebration of the house", Richard says.

At the recent Royal Australian Institute of Architects Brisbane awards, where the house was commended, the awards director Jennifer Taylor applauded the way the "very livable" extension is "clearly modernist yet happily co-exists with a traditional Queensland house".



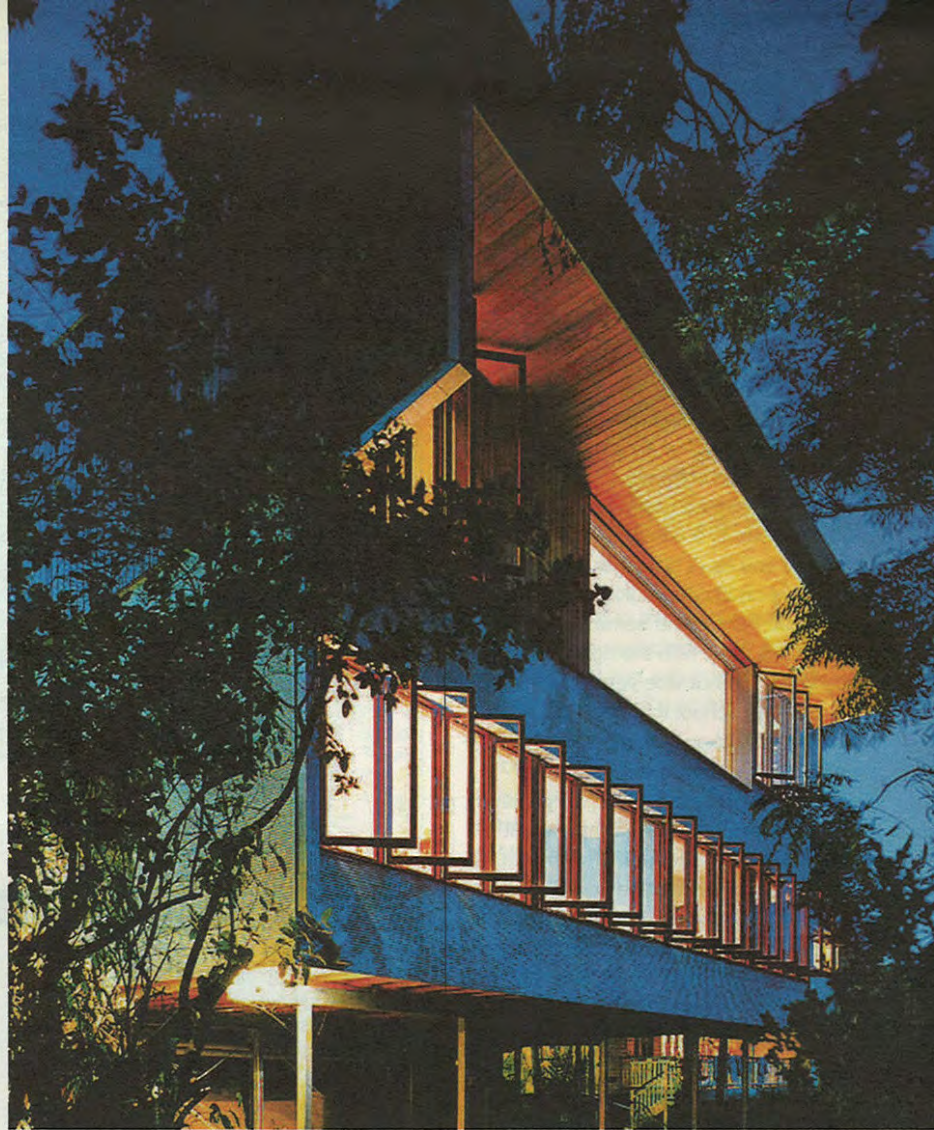
**Top left:** window to the trees  
**Top:** the elaborate timber staircase  
**Above:** a modern fence surrounds the home  
Pictures: Jon Linkins

## essentials

**Architect:** Richard Kirk, South Brisbane, 3255 2526. [www.richardkirkarchitect.com](http://www.richardkirkarchitect.com)  
**Builder:** Brian Peace, Peace Renovations 0419 234 656

## features

- ▶ Six bedrooms, living spaces, pool, rainforest setting
- ▶ Wall cladding: Australian white beech timber and zincalume mini orb
- ▶ Frame: Steel structure and timber framing
- ▶ Screen fences: spotted gum
- ▶ Internal flooring: blackbutt
- ▶ Internal screens: rosewood
- ▶ Internal timber veneers: hoop pine and Queensland maple



**Rear view:** the Queenslander has been creatively transformed into a contemporary home

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