



Camouflage

In this renovated 1920s home, weatherboards meet uncoated timber and Zinalume, symbolising a union of past and present

Above and right: As it is located in a high-density zone, demolition of this 1920s timber home was permitted. However, the owners wanted to retain the existing structure, helping to preserve the character of the historical street in which it stands. The home is clad in the original weatherboards, and timber screens fence the property, including the carport.

Exterior materials should not only enhance the form of a house, but complement the natural environment surrounding it. Practical issues, such as maintenance and costs, also need to be considered when choosing cladding.

A case in point is architect Richard Kirk's renovation of this 1920s timber home. Set on a steep site studded with mature, leafy trees, the original core of the house has been retained at street level, while a new box volume was added to the rear. In keeping with the vernacular of its historic neighbourhood, the house features the original weatherboard cladding on the front façade. Timber



screens set the home back from the street and provide privacy to what is the only flat, landscaped space on the property, says Kirk.

A mixture of timber and Zinalume set off the exterior of the new addition.

"The house sits approximately 15m off the ground at the rear of the property, which meant that any materials used would need to be zero-maintenance. However, it was also important to soften the form of the structure, so that when viewed from a distance, it would blend in with the landscape canopy," says Kirk.

Australian white beech, a timber com-

monly used on boats and well-known for its low-maintenance requirements, achieves both these objectives. Used in its natural, uncoated state, the top half of the wood-clad box melds into the canopy of trees that envelops the rear of the home.

The rest of the new addition has been clad in Zinalume Miniorb. In addition to being an economical material, it has a grey patina that complements the other materials, dismissing the need for a painted finish, says Kirk. A march of vertical windows framed in amora wood helps to break up the mass of Zinalume.

Above: The brief called for living areas that would meet the diverse needs of a large family. To create the extra spaces, a new addition was attached to the rear of the existing house. Clad in Australian white beech and Zinalume Miniorb and raised on poles, this new wing is designed to blend in with the natural environment that surrounds it.



Architect: Richard Kirk, Richard Kirk Architect (Brisbane)

Main contractor: Peace Builders

Cladding: Existing weatherboard; Australian white beech vertical boards unpainted from Moxon Timbers; Zinalume finish Miniorb by BHP

Window joinery: Timber framed species amora

Roofing: Stमित Hiten colorbond roof sheeting in Gully Grey

Photography by David Sandison

Left: As the home sits approximately 15m off the ground, low maintenance materials were used to clad the exterior.