

This house is located on a south-facing ravine adjacent to Dornoch Terrace, one of Brisbane's oldest ridgeline roads. The steepness of the rectangular site has resulted in a verdant and mature landscape consisting of a mixture of native and exotic plants, which created the opportunity to place the house within a rich landscape environment.

The house has two distinct identities: the north (landscape) and east (street) is a delicate, floating, single-level volume hovering over fine steel pins; at the south and west (distant views) the vertical and monumental character of the tall, three-level residence is revealed.

The simple rectangular form of the house is organised over three levels. The middle, entry level contains the living and dining spaces; the upper level contains all the bedrooms and a void over the dining area. The lower level contains a guest room and a media space. The stair is an important organisational reference between the levels and is treated as a sculptural element that twists slightly to allow its form to link all floor levels visually.

In the living and upper levels, the materials and detailing are deliberately fine and precise. Fine vertical timber members provide a veil-like façade, screening the building's upper level from the street. The upper level of the northern walls has a façade of glazed vertical timber mullions – or sticks – that open the interior to the landscape and the filtered northern

light through the tree canopies. The large-scale external openings of the living spaces on the middle level integrate the landscape by opening the internal floor plate completely to the outdoor spaces, which consist of a series of floating platforms or constructed ground planes of timber decking or turf. To celebrate the transition from interior to exterior, the east- and north-facing walls open completely via a series of stacking sliding glazed timber panels. The south and west façades are more monumental, revealing the height of the building engaging with the distant views.

In response to the dominance of the landscape, the house is entirely clad in timber and uses timber glazed façade systems; the specific species of timber were selected to age in response to orientation and weathering conditions.



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Richard Kirk Architect

# Highgate Hill Residence

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia



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Photography: Jon Linkins



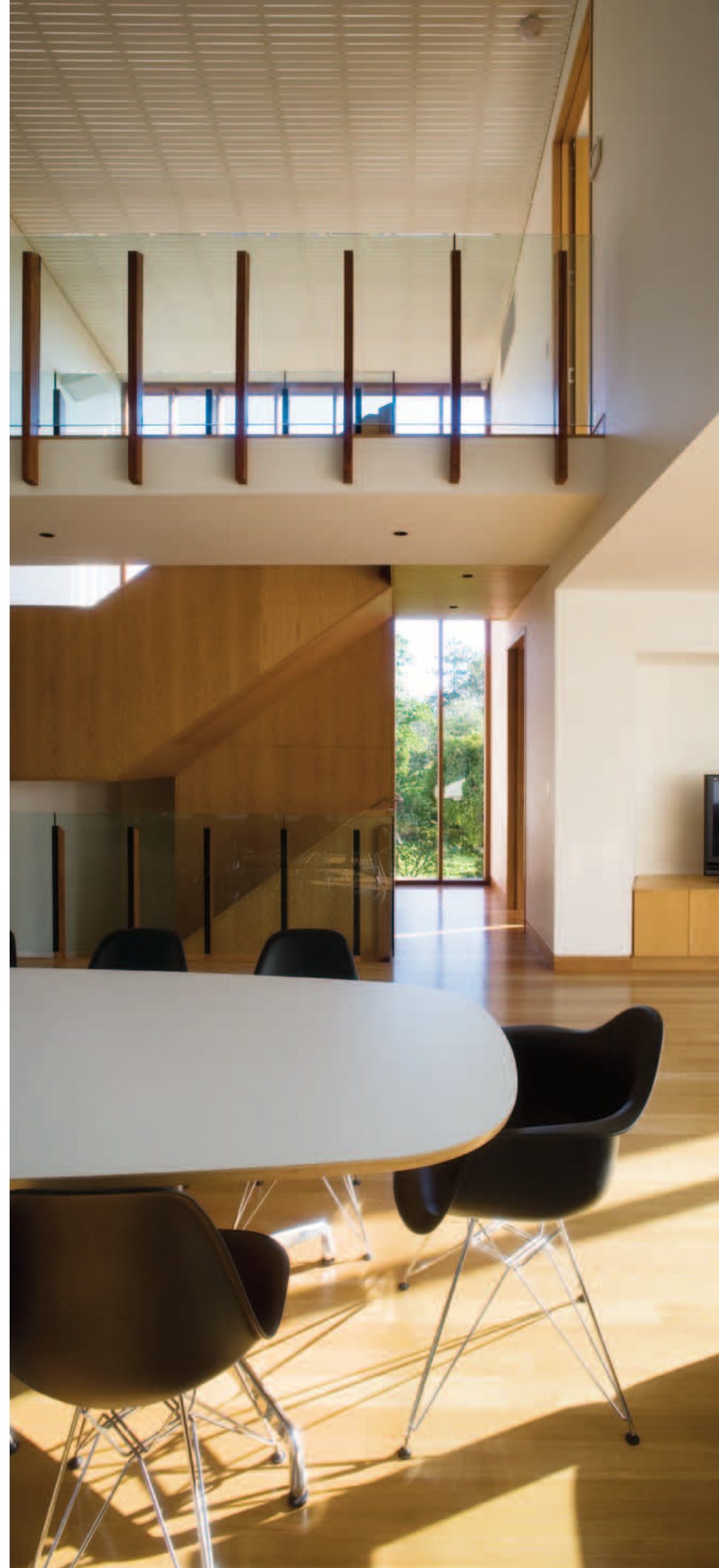
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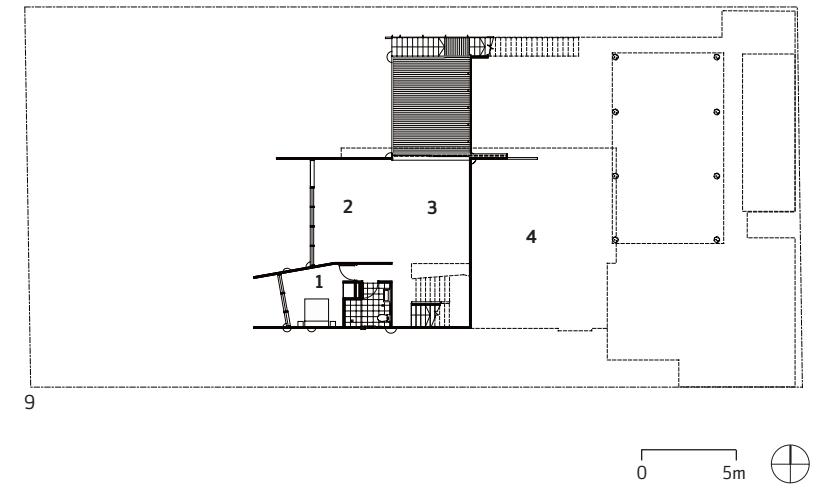
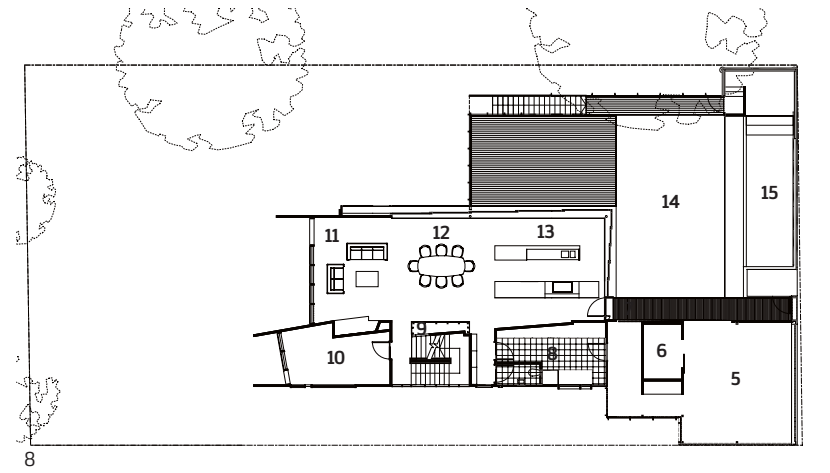
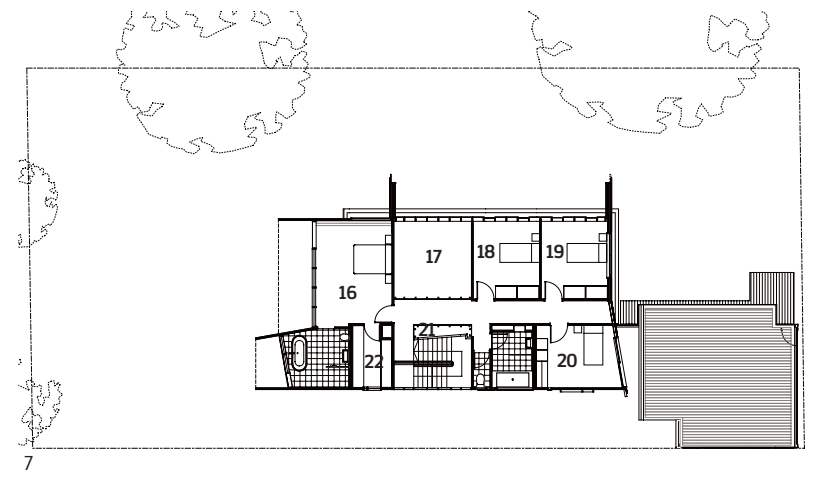
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|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 Bedroom 5  | 9 Void       | 17 Void         |
| 2 Media room | 10 Study     | 18 Bedroom 2    |
| 3 Playroom   | 11 Living    | 19 Bedroom 3    |
| 4 Undercroft | 12 Dining    | 20 Bedroom 4    |
| 5 Garage     | 13 Kitchen   | 21 Void         |
| 6 Store      | 14 Lawn      | 22 Walk-in robe |
| 7 Entry      | 15 Pool      |                 |
| 8 Laundry    | 16 Bedroom 1 |                 |

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