

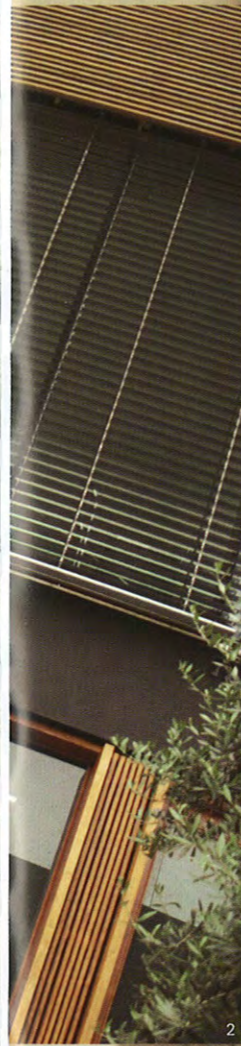
# RICHARD KIRK

Architect Richard Kirk has worked on numerous landmark West End and South Brisbane commercial and residential projects over the past decade.

Kirk, who chooses to live and work in the local area, has a home at West End and offices in Manning Street at South Brisbane. He has lived in 4101 postcode since 1999.

The Cutting Edge Building on the river off Montague Road was amongst Richard Kirk Architect's first major commissions in West End in 2004, and the firm has recently completed designs for the new ABC Studios at South Bank Parklands. Situated between OPAC and the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, near the Arbour, the new ABC site has been designed as a contemporary new media centre for the people. The centre, on which construction has already commenced, also will house the Queensland Symphony Orchestra. Kirk says the client was seeking an understated continuity to the parkland environment. A design highlight is the radio studio that will be visible from the street. "The building creates a fantastic gateway to the Parklands. Everyone likes the idea that the national broadcaster can occupy such a public location," Richard said. The addition of 300 staff to the precinct will create additional vibrancy.

Another significant project for Kirk in the 4101 postcode has been the Musgrave Park Cultural Centre, incorporating an indigenous arts centre. The community project, on which he consulted for five years, will be funded by the State Government and is currently at approval stage. Richard believes the enhancement of Musgrave Park is important on several fronts. "It will activate the park 24 hours a day,





*“An advocate for positive change, Richard Kirk says, “The area has a great sense of community but the best years are ahead of it, not behind it.”*

and make it more accessible and desirable for visitors.” The Cultural Centre, which will occupy a currently unused southern part of the park, will be about providing a building where people can engage with the indigenous community, he says. “At the moment, Brisbane doesn’t have ready access to a place for people to visit and see that aspect of the city.”

Kirk is also keen to see Davies Park, home to the West End Markets, opened up and enhanced as a public space. Richard, who has produced masterplan projects for the new West End riverside apartment developments, thinks a rejuvenation of Davies Park would be significant for the area. “It is a first-class public park that’s completely under-utilised.”

A big believer in the future of West End, Richard Kirk chooses to live and work here for its facilities, access to the city and cultural vibrancy. He is enjoying watching the evolution of the 4101 suburbs. “I think the area will develop into the most vibrant part of the city in the next five to 10 years. West End, with its multi-cultural qualities, has the capacity to be the cultural hub for the city. It has all the right ingredients.”

An advocate for positive change, Richard Kirk says, “The area has a great sense of community but the best years are ahead of it, not behind it.”

BY DANIELLE HUGHES BROWN

(1) Cutting Edge Building (Jon Linkins) (2) Richard Kirk Architect Building (Luke Harvey) (3) ABC Building (Jon Linkins) (4) Richard Kirk (Luke Harvey) (5) Highgate Hill Residence (Patrick Bingham Hall) (6) Highgate Hill Residence (Patrick Bingham Hall) (7) Cutting Edge (Jon Linkins) (8) Cutting Edge (www.ironwill.com.au)