



## Thick-edged wedge

Finding a vacant block of land in inner Brisbane's West End is no easy task. The in-demand riverside suburb is densely built, so when a young couple stumbled across a wedge of land that had been a shared driveway between two old cottages, they decided building was a better option than renovating. They commissioned architect Richard Kirk to design a house that fitted into the streetscape, without making it a replica of its colonial neighbours.

"It's a perfect north-facing site," Kirk says. "The owners wanted to establish a real connection with the street rather than a barrier." He designed a contemporary home, but paid homage to the scale and materials of its neighbours, many of which were built in the latter half of the 1800s as part of the original West End subdivision.

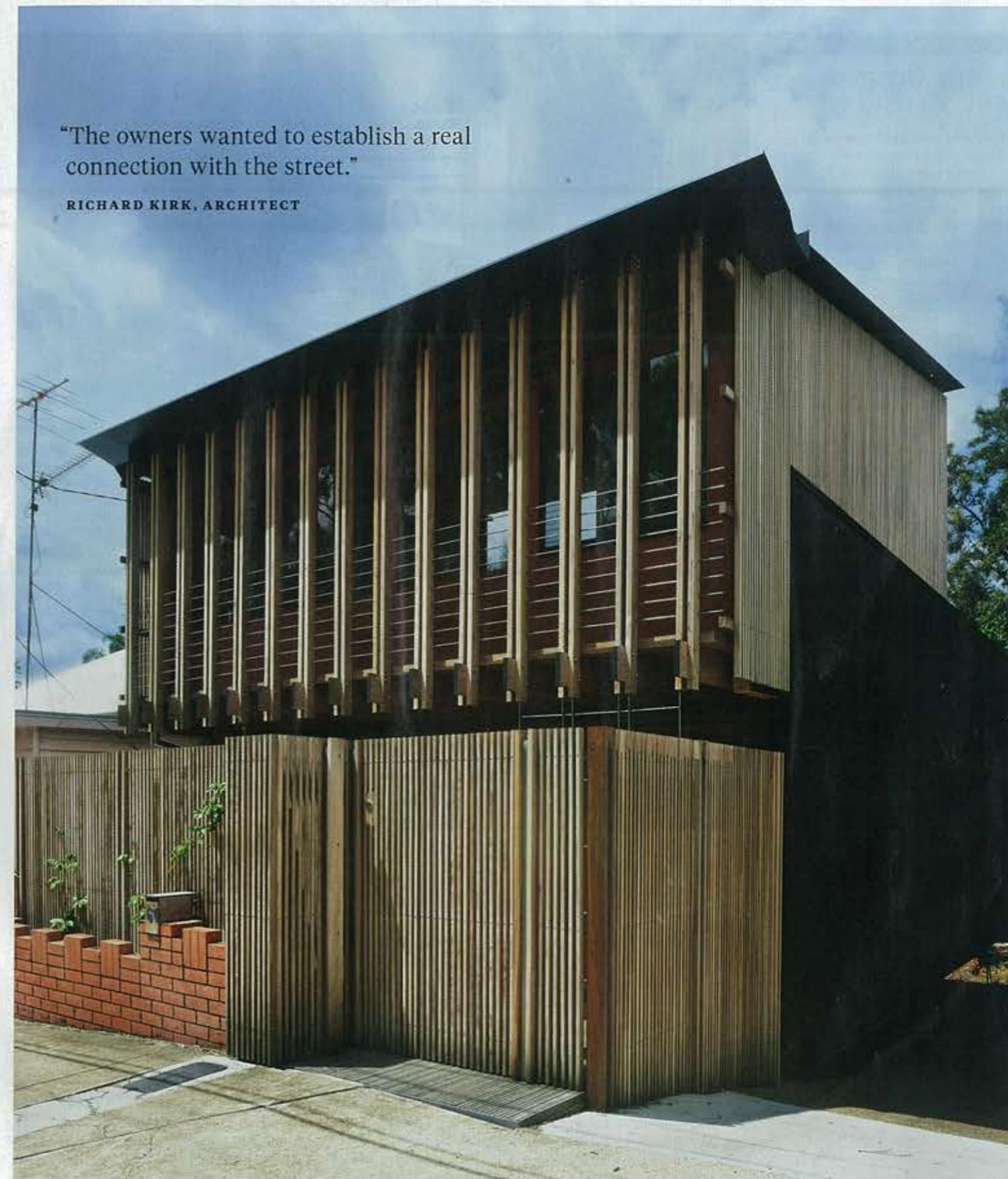
The new home is long and thin, with solid sides to preserve privacy. Living areas are on

the street side, with walls that peel away to a courtyard garden visible through the battened timber fence. Above, the master bedroom is also wrapped in a screen of timber battens, with a wall of glass behind that can slide away to allow maximum ventilation. "It's a contemporary take on a West End cottage," Kirk says. "But we have brought light, views and ventilation into it, while not overlooking other houses."

The long tube of living space is lit by a strip of south-facing clerestory windows. The kitchen is planted in the middle of the space, between the living room at the front and the two southern bedrooms that overlook the back garden. Kitchen cupboards, a bathroom and a laundry are all contained within a crafted timber box that sits like a stylish container in the centre of the space. Ply walls and blackbutt floors and joinery add to the warmth and elegance. **MARGIE FRASER**



**BATTENED HATCH** ...  
(CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT)  
LIVING AREAS FACE THE STREET;  
CLERESTORY WINDOWS LIGHT  
THE DINING AREA; WALLS PEEL  
AWAY TO A COURTYARD.



"The owners wanted to establish a real connection with the street."

**RICHARD KIRK, ARCHITECT**