



*these pages: Architect Lockyer is a self-confessed, die-hard modernist. He enjoyed the idea of the extension as a counterpoint to the old structure that existed.*

*Timber ceilings and walls are a notable feature of this house as are the tall glass frameless sash windows on the façade. These are 5.4 metres high and when open, allow the interior to extend seemingly to the canopy of the large tree in front.*

## THE LIGHTHOUSE

location: Bardon, Queensland, Australia  
architecture and interior design: Shaun Lockyer Architects  
images: Scott Burrows, Aperture Photography

SOUTH AFRICAN-BORN ARCHITECT SHAUN LOCKYER NOW LIVES AND WORKS IN NORTH-EASTERN AUSTRALIA. HIS OWN HOME WAS A POST-WAR COTTAGE, CIRCA 1960 AND HIS PREREQUISITE WAS TO CREATE A SIMPLE, COST-EFFECTIVE 'POD' TO ACCOMMODATE THE REQUIREMENTS OF HIS YOUNG FAMILY. ▶



*these pages: Where there was solid wall there is now glass, where there was pitched tile there is now flat metal, what was dark is now illuminated by day and night.*

*Shaun Lockyer's interior is eclectic and reflects his travels and the gathering and collection of art and mementoes from around the world.*

**H**e recalls: 'My two children had outgrown the original cottage. But the other core function of the extension was to improve the connection to the landscape, engage with the sky and provide a more climatically comfortable place in which to live. The resulting space now measures 165m<sup>2</sup>, 70m<sup>2</sup> having been added to the existing structure. The plot of land is extensive at over 600m<sup>2</sup>.

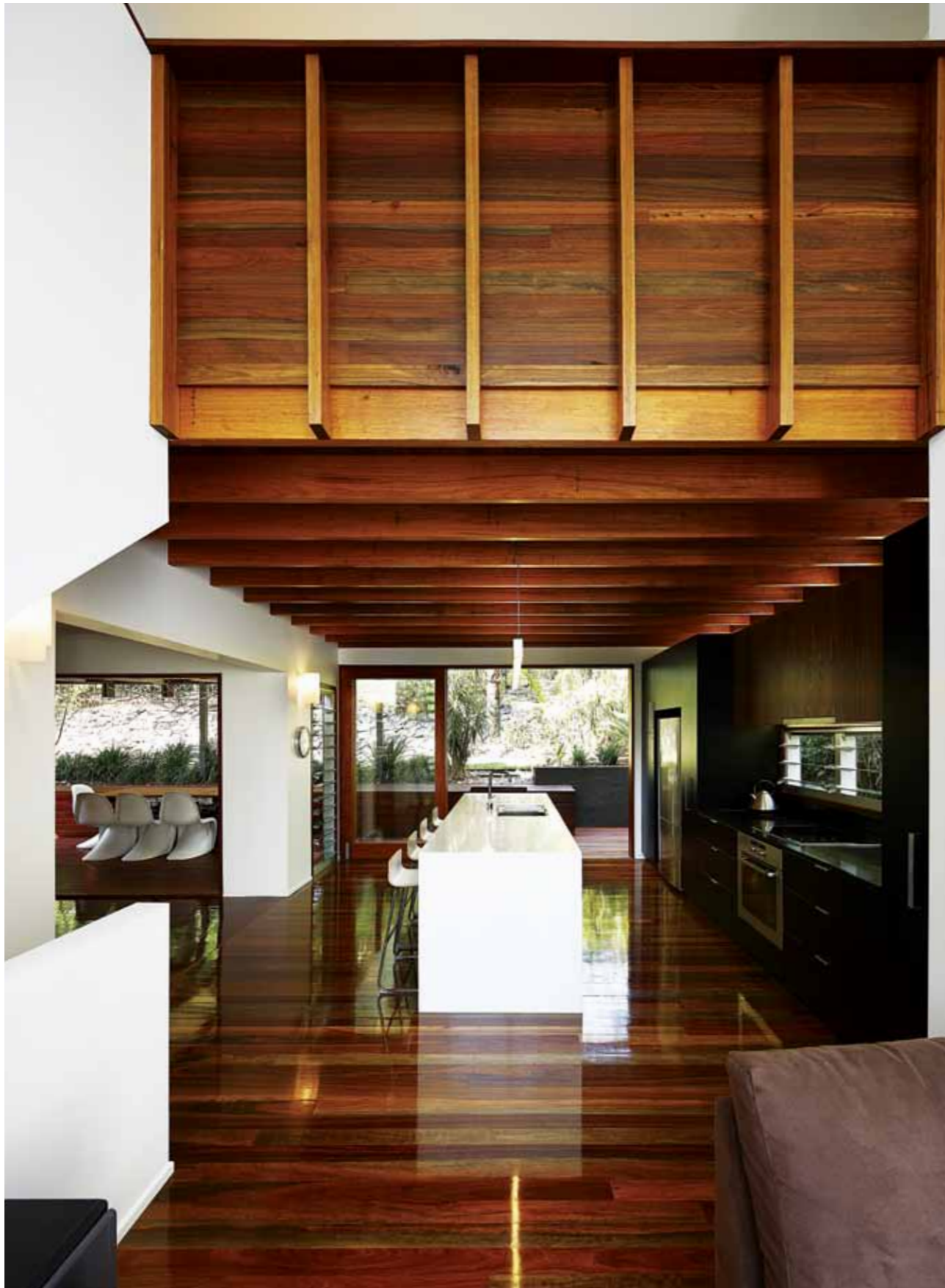
'We deliberately left as much of the original house intact as possible, apportioning the budget to a new and contemporary structure. The challenge was to introduce

light and air in a dramatic new space while simultaneously creating a seamless connection between the old and new.

'The solution was found in relocating the kitchen into the new build, along with the main living room, placed under the high void of double volume space. Above the kitchen is a large open-plan study supported by an exposed hardwood structure, which is expressed into the ceiling of the kitchen. The removal of the kitchen from the old house allowed the original lounge and dining spaces to be opened up onto the deck.'

There were few problems other than heritage issues. ►





*these pages: Materials include a lot of timber, locally crafted and evocative of nature and durable warmth.*

initially a concern given that this extension is built in a pre-war character area. Yet subsequently the project was given overwhelming support for its progressive but equally sensitive approach, in sympathetically avoiding any demolition of the older fabric.

The enlarged house now has three bedrooms, two living areas, a study and two and a half bathrooms. It also has a large deck, two-vehicle accommodation and storage. The new double volume space is very much the interior focus of the house and is a gathering point from where the kitchen and older living areas now open seamlessly onto the deck to create an effective indoor / outdoor living arrangement. ▶

*this page: The introduction of natural light was key in the architect / owner's prerequisites for this extension. It is assisted in the main bathroom by glass shutters and a mirrored wall.*



Says the architect / interior designer: 'We required a warm, practical space that would meet the needs of a growing family. Equally, as an architect – with this being my own home – I wanted it to be an example of how limited resources can be used in a poetic and dramatic fashion. We worked closely with the builder and sub-contractors to find intelligent ways to achieve the specific outcomes

we wanted.

'It's been a learning experience that has taught me how to think about the value of what gets spent. And how to find the very essence of materials, how best to spend on the areas that affect your life, so as not to fall prey to fashion and excess. This is the lowest budget, least expensive project I have ever completed, and it's also the most successful.'