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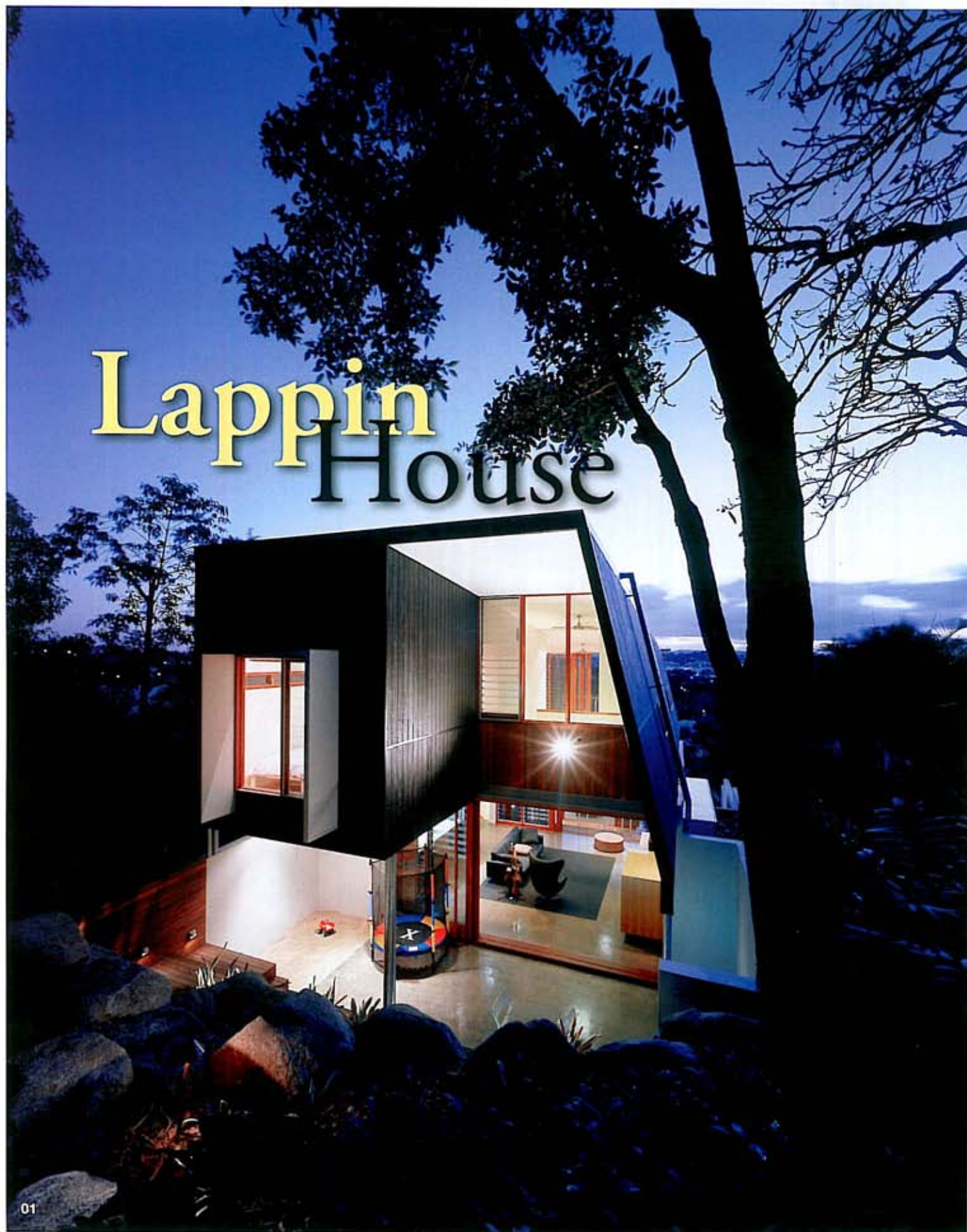
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Lappin House



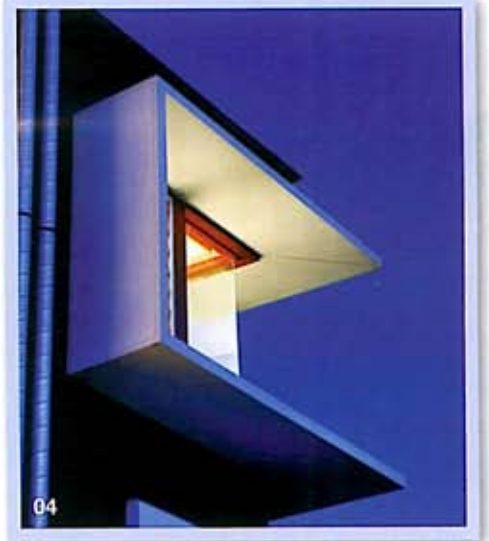


“ The aspiration of the Lappin House was to preserve the language of the Queenslander while getting the best out of the site.”

Brisbane, Australia

Queensland, Australia is characterised by a long running, distinguished and historical form of building, the Queenslander. It can be an arduous task when renovations are required to these iconic forms - does one continue and pay tribute to or depart from the tradition that has given identity to the state for so many years. This question can also be asked of any historical context anywhere in the world, and as trends become universal, the need to retain a unique identity seems more pressing. The Lappin House looked to embrace the past and the future both simultaneously and respectfully.

It was important to acknowledge the historical context of the site and suburb, but at the same time provide a modern solution for the literally expanding needs of the client - who was expecting twins. Contemporary issues such as diminishing space in Australia's fastest growing region as well the worst drought on record ensured innovative solutions.



01/ A distinguished and historical building form of the Queenslander.

02/ Loving the sunlight.

03/ An embrace of past aesthetic into a future design.

04/ Lights that brighten the skies.

05/ Sitting out by the natural path.

06/ An outdoor entertainment space.



The aspiration of the Lappin House was to preserve the language of the Queenslander while getting the best out of the site. As the original house was in excellent condition, this philosophy informed a new extension to the rear of the existing house, preserving the heritage appearance from the street. The negative space shaped by the extension created a new central courtyard play area in the middle of the house linking the existing to the new. This courtyard provides a new but unofficial entry, which flips the way the interiors spaces are used and experienced. The existing house is now the protected play area for the children while the extension provides a new private retreat for the adults with the central courtyard as the middle ground. The extension creates a series of spaces that allow people to either draw forward to enjoy the newly expanded view to the city or to retreat back from the western sun.





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The forms of the spaces are a direct response to the site constraints and opportunities as well as a deliberate departure to the traditional context. Walls slope in to accommodate setbacks and open up to the view, which contrasts sharply to the symmetry of the old Queenslander. Soaring double height spaces provide relief to the old linear ceiling planes, while generous, near full width spaces depart from the compartmentalisation of the original house.

The objective of the new extension was to deliberately contrast the new and old elements in a complimentary manner. This was done through form, materials and color. From the front of the house, new slender silver weathered Tallowood screening contrasts against the regimented painted timber weatherboards. In the central courtyard black painted vertical groove plywood (a modern testament to the VJ's inside) distinguishes the new extension from the traditional horizontal grey weatherboards of the existing house. Internally, new Tasmanian Oak timber joinery of the kitchen offsets against the dark timbers of the heritage home. VJ paneling, decorative moldings and the expressed structure of the Queenslander morph into the smooth clean walls, shadow lines and square edges of the extension. Lightweight laminate flooring butts into slabs of light coloured timber and polished concrete. What was once introverted and dark has now become extroverted and light.

07/ Kitchen area.

09/ Unifying colour schemes throughout the home.

08/ Kitchen island in a darker tone.

10/ A smooth flow of indoor and outdoor space with openness and brightness reflected through the aesthetics.



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Shaun Lockyer, AIA
 Project Director
 Arkhefield

Arkhefield is one of Australia's leading architectural and interior design practices. The firm is headed by Director, Andrew Gutteridge, and supported by a broad team of committed and enthusiastic Associate architects, registered and graduate architects, technicians, interior designers and students. The Arkhefield team looks to create challenging and meaningful architecture encompassing the very large to the very small across a range of commercial, institutional, residential and interior design projects. Arkhefield's work has been widely awarded by the Australian Institute of Architects and other industry bodies with over 45 industry awards being awarded to the firm since establishing the practice in 1992.





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Internally, the intersections of old and new are bridged by joinery and bulkhead features, allowing the two extremes to converge into a puzzle like junction. This detail is then echoed throughout the extension, tying the whole space together.

The slope of the site and consequent excavation as well as beautiful city views dictated the vertical build of the extension. This decision provided a small building footprint and economic use of space, as well as allowing a large extent of the lushly vegetated block to remain. The configuration of the spaces as well as louvre windows at all openings ensures that most rooms enjoy natural light and constant air flow from at least two opposing sides of the house.

11/ Light falling from above.

12/ A room with controllable light flow.

13/ The huge separated bath and toilet areas.

14/ Master bedroom with fascinating view of the outdoor and amazing horizon.

15/ Openess and allowing light entering through the spaces is the concept of the rooms in this home.



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The polished concrete of the Family room floor provides a heat sink in winter and a cool haven underfoot in summer when the retractable external sun shading is in operation. Solar Hot water system ensures year round hot water. Water tanks capture all of the 100 square metres of catchment area of the new works. The new central courtyard allows plenty of northern light into the rooms.

Sustainable materials are also incorporated throughout this project: the plywood cladding is manufactured from FSC certified, sustainable, radiata pine and is not as energy intensive as other products. The Tallowood timber is sourced both locally and responsibly. The Tasmanian Oak is sourced responsibly from commercial plantations within Australia.



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