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The name of this house, *Palissandro*, means rosewood in Italian. The owners, a young professional couple, decided to celebrate the beautiful timber that wraps up the front of the house in a filigree screen and graces their home’s curvaceous interior walls. While house hunting (with no intention to ever build), the couple came across the block in Brisbane’s inner-north New Farm with a postwar house on it. Architect Shaun Lockyer was commissioned to design the replacement.

“It is a small block, but at 13.5 metres wide, that’s practically acreage in New Farm,” says Lockyer. “That allowed us to do things you can’t do on the typical 10m-wide block – so there’s a great generosity to the spaces.”

The client employed builder Cullum Hughes and resigned his job to manage the project. The result is a beautifully crafted, fully resolved building. A dramatic entry includes a sweeping curved wall of timber on one side, and a two-level waterfall and pond on the other. The detailed timber striations of the wall took three people



more than a fortnight to build, underlining the “no compromise” attitude adopted throughout the project.

Large kitchen and lounge zones flow onto a poolside terrace, while a sunken dining room is lined with a refrigerated wine cellar, all of its bottles visible through the glass. Abundant natural light streams in through nine skylights that puncture the ceilings of the upper level, and through



light wells built into the walls of the ground floor, while the lavish master bedroom has skylights over its en suite shower and bath. “The house was conceived as a rectangle, then we chiselled bits out of it,” says Lockyer, referring to the interlocking voids, recesses and cut-outs in the plan. “It has a very sculpted quality.”

Timber art ... Crafted wood defines all the rooms of this inner-city house, inside and out.

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