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sustainable architecture and landscape design

What's Cooking?

Our annual kitchen spread

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This is one of those projects with a familiar agenda – build the smallest footprint to preserve as much open space as possible. The existing verandah represented fifty per cent of the existing footprint of the house. Whilst it is the default reaction in Queensland to re-open enclosed verandahs in major renovation projects, here the enclosure is retained. The act of re-occupying the verandah/sleepout meant that there was no need to re-build that amount of floor area again in the backyard. Certain daily activities, located in the sleepout, are enhanced by a proximity to the garden. Other activities are placed deeper in the original core rooms of the Queenslander where intimacy and moderated light levels are desirable. This is about 'sustaining' family life in the suburbs and providing a multiplicity of possibilities, room characters, events and relationships to the setting, whilst acknowledging the social contribution a house makes to active life on the street.

Owen and Vokes and Peters
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This kitchen was designed to be an integral part of the house rather than a response to current trends. In this way it is unlikely that it will be replaced or 'updated' every 10 years as styles and tastes change. Queensland silver ash boards line the ceiling and all joinery is matching veneer with a low-VOC clear finish. The stainless steel working side of the kitchen has an integrated sink and is all locally manufactured. Natural light is in abundance with a window acting as a splashback thereby reducing reliance on artificial lighting. Sliding doors allow for cross ventilation through the kitchen and its close proximity to the outdoors provides a planning efficiency.

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