



A slatted breezeway connects the old and new components of David and Hannah Hodson's home near Brisbane, Australia. Working with design firm Wrightson Stewart, the couple updated the existing house (inset) and shifted common areas and their bedroom to the extension.



**A dated cottage in a Brisbane suburb gets a new look and a spacious addition.**

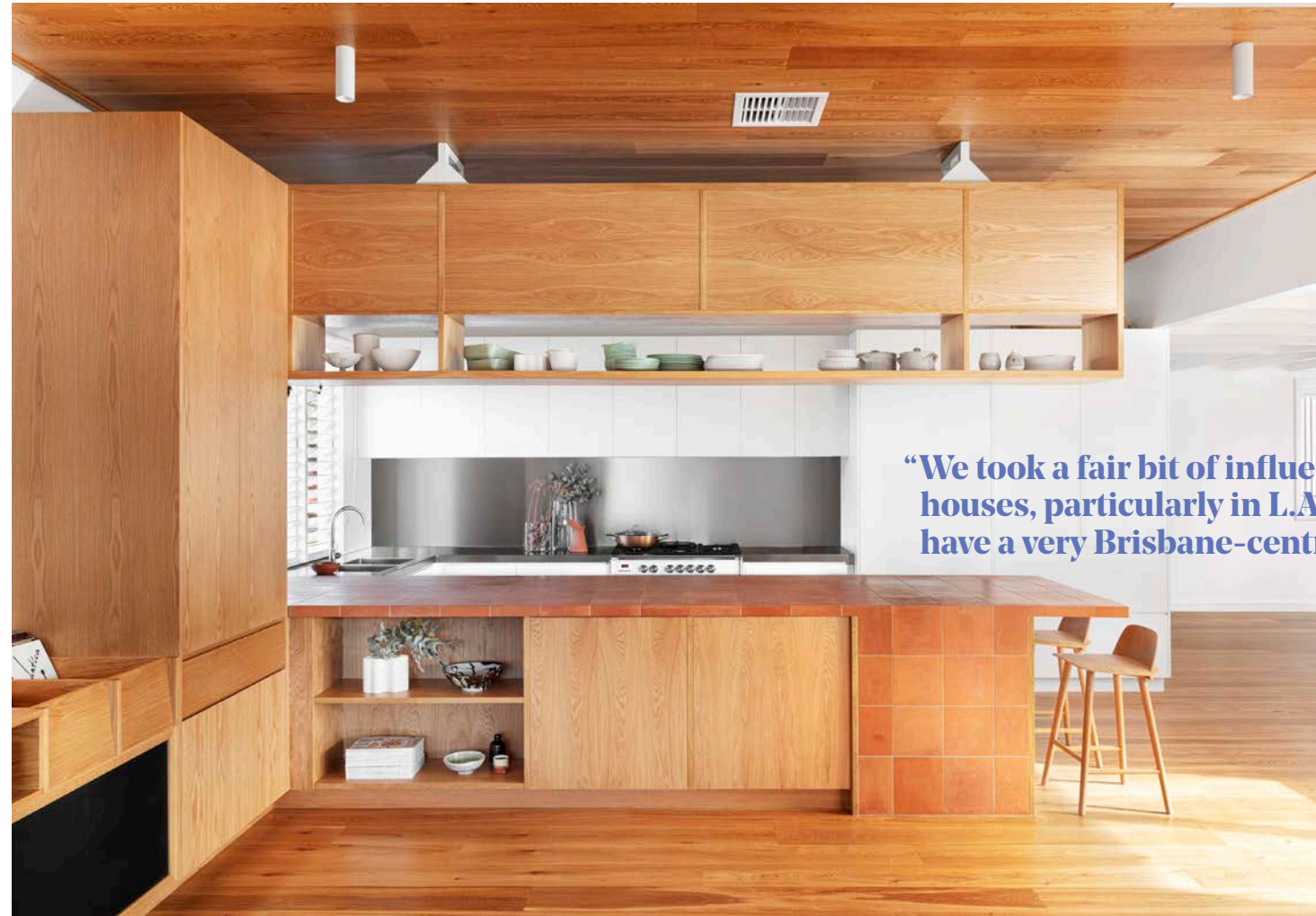
# The Sum of Its Parts

renovation



The entry was moved from the living room of the original house (inset) to the new breezeway (above). Ian Wrightson and Steven Stewart, working with architect Barbara Bailey, focused on bringing light and ventilation to both structures and made deft use of joinery to provide seating and storage.

The kitchen, formerly a cramped space in the old building (opposite, top inset), is now an open-plan family hub in the addition (center). The children's bathroom (opposite, top) features a sink from Reece and Pittorica tiles from Classic Ceramics. The Solo chairs in the dining area (opposite, bottom) are by Studio Nitzan Cohen.



**“We took a fair bit of influence from American Arts and Crafts houses, particularly in L.A., but with everything, I like to have a very Brisbane-centric end product.”** IAN WRIGHTSON, DESIGNER



renovation



**Most people would have torn it down.**

But David and Hannah Hodson had become attached to their 1950s home in the Hendra suburb of Brisbane after living in it for a year—even though the weather-board house was dark, architecturally uninspired, and awkwardly close to a side property line. When they decided to create a larger home for themselves and their two children, they chose to renovate instead and charged Australian design firm Wrightson Stewart with overhauling and expanding the structure to bring in more light and air and generally give some new life to a tired old house.

David grew up in nearby Ascot, where he still has family, and he and Hannah love Hendra's mishmash of architectural styles. Their own corner lot, however, came with considerable challenges that any addition would have to navigate. Two large storm water pipes diagonally cross the site, limit-

ing opportunities for ground works and footings. In addition, the property is on what is called an “overland flow path”—meaning that any new structures need to be a minimum height above ground level. Luckily, in subtropical Brisbane, where much of the traditional Queensland housing stock is built on tall piers for ventilation, the lifting, shifting, and restumping of houses is a common intervention.

Architect Barbara Bailey, working with Wrightson Stewart, designed the extension as a separate—and architecturally distinct—structure. The original house resembles a traditional cottage—pitched roof, terra-cotta tiles, bay windows. The extension is taller and has a flat roof and cleaner lines. “Hendra is very eclectic in terms of the sorts of houses that are in it,” says Bailey of combining two styles. The structures are linked by an

elevated breezeway, and elements such as operable louvered windows in both sections and overall white timber cladding marry old and new.

The existing house was moved forward on the lot so that the family could have a north-facing private backyard and pool. “That has so improved the streetscape,” says Bailey. “It just looks like the house has always been there.” Several decks have been included, with cutouts in their crisp white walls framing neighborhood views.

“The design team came to see us and to observe how we were living,” David says. “We told them we wanted an open plan, and we definitely liked the idea of the two spaces, old and new, as separate zones—one for the kids’ bedrooms and one for our bedroom and the living spaces. In a previous house that we built, we wanted a bridge but never got it, so I think we’ve always had a thing for bridges.” Their Hendra house >

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**Hendra Residence**



DESIGNER **Wrightson Stewart**  
ARCHITECT **Barbara Bailey**  
LOCATION **Brisbane, Australia**

- A Entrance
- B Deck
- C Bathroom
- D Bedroom
- E Walk-in Closet
- F Kitchen
- G Dining Area
- H Living Area
- I Powder Room
- J Laundry
- K Family Room
- L Study

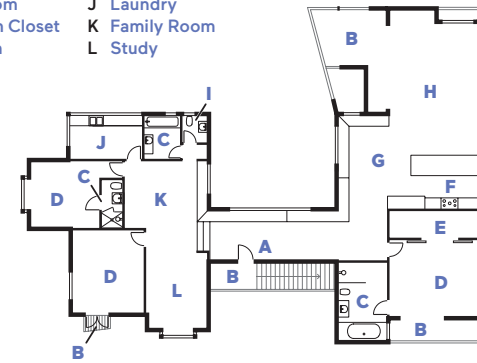


ILLUSTRATION: LOHNES + WRIGHT



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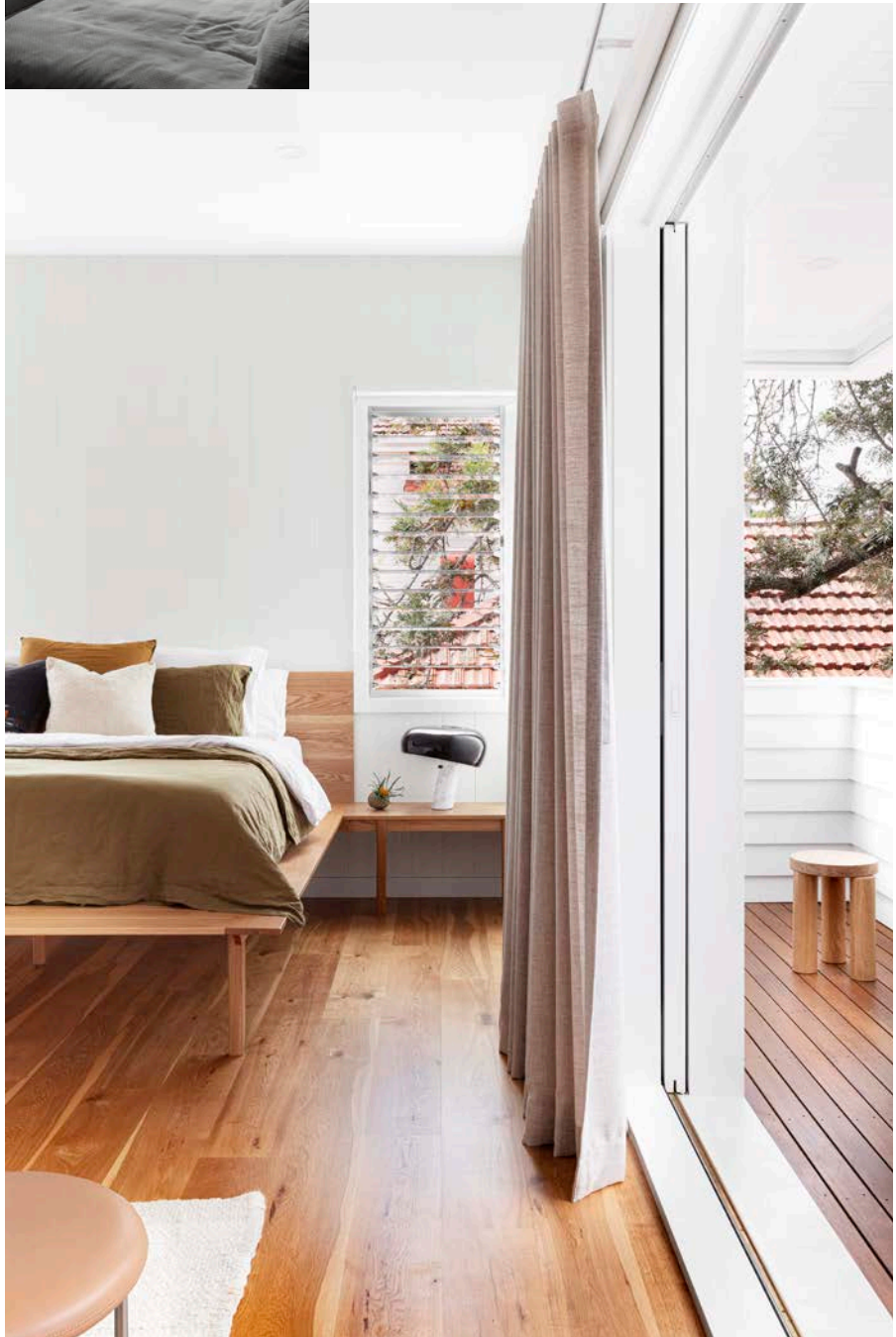
The old bedrooms (inset) were small and dark. David and Hannah's new bedroom (far left and below), which is located in the extension, has clean white walls, built-ins, and

a large glass slider leading to a private deck. The lounge chair and stool are by BassamFellows, and the Snoopy lamp is by Achille Castiglioni and Pier Giacomo Castiglioni for Flos.

was boxed in and thermally inefficient, but now the Hodsons find themselves opening up the louvers and windows throughout, enjoying the cross breezes in the 2,700-square-foot combined structure.

Strands of the surrounding neighborhood's architectural DNA can be seen running through the new interiors, from the shiplap joinery of the serpentine desk/storage/seating unit, which references the external weatherboarding, to the terra-cotta tiles in the new kitchen, which link visually to the roofs of neighboring homes and the old part of the couple's home. "I actually find the kitchen really nostalgic," says designer Ian Wrightson of Wrightson Stewart, "because terra-cotta roof material is something that reminds me of being a kid and growing up in the suburbs."

The site's restrictions could have been fought against, or the past simply pushed aside when things got difficult, but in working with the challenges and anchoring the home to its neighborhood, this formidable team has been able to poetically and respectfully reinvent their little corner of Brisbane. ■



**“On Saturday mornings, we open every single one of the louvers and let the house breathe.”** DAVID HODSON, RESIDENT