



• Northern light is brought in via courtyard areas.

The owner of this postwar house in Brisbane's inner-west St Lucia has lived on the same site since childhood. She bought it from her mother and occupied it for many years before deciding to demolish. "It was falling down around her, really," says architect Chris Bligh, "so she bit the bullet and asked me to design a new one."

Bligh and his wife Sonia Graham, of Bligh Graham Architects, drew up plans for a home big enough for a family, but cosy enough for the single owner to live in alone "without rattling around in it". The property incorporates a granny flat for the owner's mother, which can be converted into separate accommodation for students attending nearby University of Queensland, if future owners wish to sublet. The flat faces the street and can be entered via a front verandah. An internal staircase can be secured from the rest of the house if desired.

Tall timber trellises have been planted with creepers, and a courtyard leads to the central part of the house where, on entering, there is a view to the opposite deck and a treasured eucalyptus tree.



Suburban "bush" house ... This renovated postwar dwelling in Brisbane's inner west was reconfigured around a treasured eucalypt (right).

The house sits on a steeply sloping site, stepping down three levels. Bushland abuts it on the south-west side, and the living spaces look into the foliage through long bands of glass.

Northern light is brought into those spaces through the courtyard areas, while spotted gum ceilings, floors and joinery augment the "bush house" effect.

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