

Take a seat

Michelle Bailey

Sometimes the nicest place to enjoy your garden is from inside, particularly if a thoughtfully designed window seat or sheltered garden bench are involved.

Architect Matt Kennedy knows a thing or two about how to orchestrate such a setting. "In much of our work we see the distinction between internal and external spaces as ambiguous," Matt says. "The primary intervention on this project was to engage with the northeastern aspect and garden.

"We crafted a corner that can completely dissolve when doors are fully open. This was achieved through careful detailing and co-ordination with the engineer, builder and window fabricator.

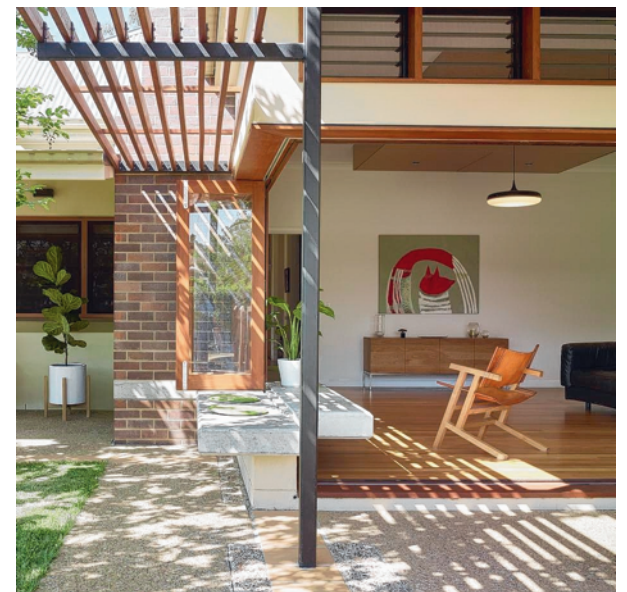
"The result is a blurred distinction between internal and external spaces, creating the feeling that the garden is now a part of the living space and vice versa."

On the opposite side of the house, a second window seat was introduced to complete a complementary pair.

"The two window seats are used differently at different times of the day and year," Matt says. "One focuses more on social interaction, with external pool, barbecue and entertaining spaces; the other facilitates quiet contemplation with framed views beyond. Sliding slatted timber screens allow control of light, ventilation and privacy, while operable timber-framed glass doors and windows can be completely closed down when weather conditions are undesirable."

Architect: Arcke, www.arcke.com.au

Pictures: Scott Burrows



SITTING PRETTY ... Garden seats in this Chapel Hill house, designed by Arcke architect Matt Kennedy, merge indoors and out and frame views. The same seat is pictured top and left.

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