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PLANET ARK

CASE STUDY



# House Earlwood

## The Swiss Box

Designed by Architect Prineas  
[www.architectprineas.com.au](http://www.architectprineas.com.au)

### OVERVIEW

The owners of this home – a Swiss couple with their two children - chose timber for nostalgic reasons. The timber box is a play on the traditional building methods of the buildings from their childhood memories. The use of traditional shiplap cladding on a contemporary form is a rich juxtaposition - a tactile container for contemporary living - a desire for light / open spaces with a connection to the garden.

### DETAIL

The idea of reinterpretation is carried into the existing building, where traditional timber details are treated with a contemporary sensibility



*'We were interested in the original timber detailing of the existing house. Floorboards were exposed, and a fresh lime wash coat added that has reinterpreted the traditional spaces and transitions into the contemporary additions at the rear.'*

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- hearths, picture rails or floorboards are painted white or lime washed, they ask for reconsideration, and sit comfortably alongside the contemporary pavilion to the rear.

The external cladding is certified, recycled spotted gum and ironbark. Certified Tasmanian Oak has been used for the floorboards inside. Certified Blackbutt for the deck outdoors.

The owners have strived to achieve a continuity and consistency with the extent and detailing of the external timber cladding. The effect is a surprisingly coherent addition with its own integrity and scale. When viewed from the garden, the rear elevation is considered and the materiality of the timber is a beautiful wall to the garden.

The original ornate timber picture rails, architraves and skirtings were restored and painted in the original cottage.

## WHY DID YOU CHOOSE WOOD?

Wood was chosen for its structural spanning properties and particularly its price competitiveness when compared to corresponding steel sections required. The depth of the beams was incorporated into the design. The contractor appreciated the ease of construction.

