

For this new build in Melbourne's Blackburn, architect Kirsten Johnstone kept it simple with versatile **timber**, which handles whatever the climate throws at it.

**OPPOSITE, FROM LEFT**

Architect Rebecca Naughtin capitalised on the curved footprint of a property in Melbourne's North Fitzroy by adding a sculptural black **brick** wall to enclose the courtyard.

James Hardie **Scyon Linea weatherboards** guided landscape architect Fiona Ericsson of Sticks & Stones to select composite decking for this home on Sydney's north shore.

## what to consider

To help you home in on the right colour and material, ask yourself the following, says Melbourne architect Kirsten Johnstone

**Does the cladding suit my home's location and aesthetic?** How will it integrate with the rest of the house?

**Is it easy to maintain?** A must to consider well before installation day.

**What are its environmental impacts?** Is the cladding sourced locally? Is it a natural product or manmade? Is it recyclable?

**How will the colour affect my home's energy efficiency?** Lighter colours tend to lessen the heat load. In a warmer climate, this will reduce how hot your home becomes, particularly on sides facing the sun.

