

GRAND DESIGN

Coast's home of the year a career highlight for the builder who took on the challenging project

By ERLE LEVEY

A STUNNING three-level home that hangs from its sloping beachfront site at Noosa's southern beaches has taken out the Master Builders Sunshine Coast House of the Year.

Built by Braeden Constructions and designed by SBT Design, the house is the result of close consultation with the owner.

It is the highlight for Braeden's Mick Devlin, in a career of building houses and commercial buildings for the past 14 years after having learnt the trade with his father.

"The site was demanding because of the slope and the sand," he said. "It was always a challenge ... but makes it interesting. The setting was incredible."

Mick, who has won a number of MBA awards in recent years, said he had done a job for the owner previously and they had spoken about the site.

"He had spent time overseas so he had snippets of design ideas he liked," Mick said. "I recommended he see Ben Thornton from SBT Design. They brought the whole design together between the two of them."

"The concept was breathtaking, the way it hangs on the edge. It's a simple design that works well ... it doesn't have the intricacies of some other houses."

"You walk through front door and are instantly drawn to the ocean ... the wet edge pool as well. It's not over-complicated. There is a nice focus."

Master Builders Sunshine Coast regional manager Stephen Robinson said the judges were particularly impressed with the design and liveability aspects of this outstanding home with its uniquely industrial style and the adventurous use of materials perfectly suited for the relatively harsh environment of a Sunshine Coast beachfront.



(They described the home as 'a superb blend of innovation and practicality which are combined seamlessly to create a modern luxurious beachfront home'.)

On entering the front gate you are greeted by a beautiful reflection pond and island deck that is sheltered from the elements. Then your attention is immediately taken by the expansive glass door entry with the views straight through to the ocean.

Step through the entry and you are treated to a huge open floor plan, with soaring ceilings and brilliant use of feature materials such as galvanised steel, zinc and perspex sheeting, much of which is skilfully framed with dressed spotted gum hardwood timber to enhance the visual experience.

Instead of long, boring dark corridors interesting spaces are created, natural light is utilised and the lines between rooms are blurred.

The home has an amazing kitchen at its hub with a concrete and marble benchtop and airline style overhead cupboards. Hydraulic

rams are used to open the kitchen windows and in doing so open the whole house up.

It looks simple – smooth, clean services, tepanyaki style cooking, dramatic ocean and beach views – yet it is the culmination of many ideas. The work by Minka Joinery on the fittings was also award winning.

The kitchen overlooks a sizeable tiled terrace and magnificent wet edge lap pool. A highly functional pantry means it is just a matter of metres from the car to the kitchen

What impressed the judges was how the builder responded to the enormous challenge of the environment, design and the extensive use of different materials.

The exterior of the house is clad in zinc sheeting to counter the harsh elements. With copper downpipes and guttering, it weathers in time and makes it more interesting rather than looking worn out.

Bluestone floor tiles start from the garage and continue through the house to the wet-edge pool which helps with the flow of the house. High ceilings in the living area are a feature, as are the bright red mosaic tiles in the powder room near the entry.

On the ground level there are guest bedrooms and a retreat, designed for yoga but which could be used for dance or music. It opens to a Japanese style zen garden with the ocean backdrop.

Some of the largest sections of glass in Australia have been used from top to bottom for the staircase up to the main bedroom suite. The glass panels have been boxed in with timber to give the impression of floating.



AT A GLANCE

Master Builders Awards
Sunshine Coast

House of the Year:
Braeden Constructions

Project of the Year:
The Plantation, Rainbow Beach, by RCQ

Women in Building:
Di Henshall

Rising Star:
Samantha Sheppard

Apprentice of the Year:
Christopher Weaver

