

House of year to Devlins

Africa and Japan blended for Lawson family home

ALLAN and Mare-Helene Lawson knew exactly what they wanted in their dream home.

After years of travelling abroad, it was the textures of Africa and the minimalist architecture of Japan which most appealed.

And they knew it would take someone like Mick Devlin to make their dream a reality.

On Friday night, their faith in his company, Braeden Constructions, was vindicated when the Cooroy Mountain home was named the Queensland Master Builders House of the Year.

Just 18 short months ago, the

rocky hillside site lay bare.

The concept of the split-level asymmetrical home was developed in the minds of the Lawsons and brought to life by Mr Devlin and a Sunshine Coast team of designers, engineers and builders.

Mr Lawson said the Master Builders accolade, which was one of four the expansive retreat has received, provided "a certain amount of satisfaction".

"The combination of location, climate and materials has provided an almost idyllic setting of privacy and, to a certain extent, tranquillity," he said.

The Lawsons and children Cian, 15, and Jordan, 12, make the most of the various playing, living and sleep zones.

"They like living here. They always bring their friends here," Mr Lawson said.

"You can always find your own space whether it's in the middle of the noise or a nice quiet place to unwind."

Earlier this year, the home earned Mr Devlin and his wife Sally their second consecutive Master Builders Regional House of the Year award.

They were ecstatic when it won

the Over \$3 million category on Friday night and pleasantly surprised when it picked up the night's major award.

The home will now go up against other state winners in both categories at the national awards in Canberra next month.

Mr Devlin said SBT Designs and SCG Consulting Engineers were crucial to the overall success.

"I think our success came down to experience, communication and a great team including local contractors and sub-contractors," he said.

— Nikkii Joyce

COAST WINNERS

HOUSING

- 2010 State House of the Year – Braeden Constructions Pty Ltd
- Best Bathroom – Glenn Duncan Building Pty Ltd
- Display Home \$551,000–\$750,000 – Eco Dream Homes Pty Ltd
- Individual Home \$401,000–\$550,000 – Number One Quality Homes Pty Ltd
- Individual Home \$751,000–\$1 million – Ryan Designer Homes Pty Ltd
- Individual Home over \$3 million – Braeden Constructions Pty Ltd

- Home Renovation/Remodelling Project up to \$150,000 – Good Living Constructions

CONSTRUCTION

- Tourism and Hospitality Facilities over \$30 million – Matrix Projects (Qld) Pty Ltd, Viridian Resort and Spa Noosa Heads
- Outdoor Living and Landscaping – RGD Constructions Pty Ltd, Ocean Reach

For a full list of winners, visit the Master Builders website at www.masterbuilders.asn.au.



DREAM LIVING: Alan and Marie-Helene Lawson in their magnificent residence that won builder Mick Devlin, right, a Master Builder Queensland House Of The Year award. The home will now go up against other state winners at the national awards.

PHOTO: JOHN MCCUTCHEON/194229

Labor advised to slice budget razor deeper

THE Department of Finance has urged the government to wind back retiree, health and family payments with tougher income and eligibility tests, and reduce defence spending, warning that immediate cuts will ensure the budget returns to surplus.

The incoming brief to new Finance Minister Penny Wong says the government needs to find \$2.4 billion in savings over the next four years to pay for the pledges made during negotiations with the Independents, including the promised new \$1.8 billion program for rural hospitals.

But the brief, released late on Friday, strongly advises the government to wield the budgetary razor much more deeply, to create a financial buffer against "the persistent threat of a 'double dip' global economic down-

turn" and to prepare for the looming costs of an ageing population, a major newspaper says.

The department suggests tighter rules for taxpayer benefits and subsidies as a good place to start, including increasing the age at which retirees can access their superannuation to the aged pension threshold.

The brief also makes the controversial suggestion the government break its pledge in the 2009 defence white paper to increase spending by 3% a year to 2017-18.

Senator Wong said the government was "absolutely committed" to its strict spending limits.

"The government will work with the new Parliament to deliver this fiscal strategy in the national interest," Fairfax quoted her as saying. — AAP

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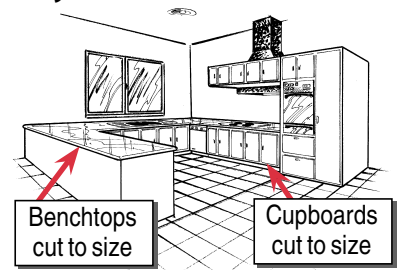


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