

# MASTER BUILDERS

Housing & Construction 2010 Awards Winners

# Magnificent home steps



**F**OR the second year running, Braeden Constructions has won the coveted 2010 Sunshine Coast Regional House of the Year award.

Described by judges as "cutting edge design meets outstanding construction", the award-winning home was built on the slopes of Cooroy Mountain.

The main entrance is framed by an impressive portico highlighted by stacked stone walls leading to a modern water feature that flows into the home.

It commands expansive panoramic views over the northern hinterland, including ocean views.

Builder Mick Devlin said he knew the house, which was designed by Ben Thornton of SBT Design, was special and worthy of a win.

"The expanse of it is impressive, but although it's a big house, there is still an easy feel to it with excellent use of indoor/outdoor living; everything flows to the outside," said Mick.

"You get a real sense that you're in contact with the natural environment.

"There's a lot of timber in the house, which softens the look and makes it seem more natural."

It's the biggest house Braeden Constructions has built.

It's situated on top of a rocky hill and, looking at the finished house, it's perhaps

hard to appreciate how challenging it was to build on a sloping site with a huge drop off.

"We had to put our foundations into exposed rock and then drop down to clay," said Mick.

"It was a rocky, tricky site but once we got the level ground slabs done it was a straightforward build."

The home is a series of pavilions linked by sweeping walkways and curved walls, with each pavilion having a unique function for the owners.

A raised gourmet kitchen complete with its own temperature controlled wine cellar and full sized scullery is the focal point of the home.

The kitchen overlooks an extensive living, dining and sunken living room, each with remarkable views to the outdoors.

One of the home's most popular spaces is an impressive outdoor entertaining area which includes a resort-style wet edge pool, a massive tiled terrace and the ultimate barbecue incorporating a top quality pizza oven, all situated around an eye-catching timber deck pavilion with unsurpassed views.

Mick said it easily transitions between being a family home and a home for entertaining.

Gas torch lamps at the front and rear of the house give it a resort-style look and mood

lighting is achieved by LED lights that change colour.

Owner Alan Lawson said it's a very different house at night, like a mini Las Vegas.

"People love to come here at night; it's a bit of a fairy ground," he said.

In celebration of the great outdoors, the owners and builder have demonstrated tremendous foresight by incorporating the rocky site as a wonderful facet of the home.

An enormous fire pit is built into the bedrock of the land.

It serves as an alternative entertaining area with expansive views and is tremendously popular with guests on cool winter nights.

It has all the bells and whistles of a modern, luxury home with a few additions such as a fully equipped home cinema room, a billiards' room, a four car garage with a fully attached workshop, two guest suites, each with their own ensuite, a gym, rumpus room and many sitting and sheltered areas.

There are lots of nooks and crannies and courtyards so the occupants can follow the sun around the house depending on the time of year.

Upstairs the master suite has one of the best views of the Coast with sliding glass doors leading to a wide balcony protected by a frameless glass balustrade.

The ensuite has a sizeable shower and a sunken spa bath with bifold doors that open on