



Street sense

A facade can make a strong street and design statement (left)

Reach for the stars

This design is going for gold in the Renovations and Additions \$350,000 to \$500,000 category (below)



In Setting: Jagat Developments (renovated in Custom-built Home \$350,000 to \$500,000)

In Setting: First Impressions Projects

>> awards criteria

The HIA will announce its housing awards tonight at the Melbourne Convention Centre. The awards cover a variety of categories, including several classes of display homes, custom-built homes, medium density housing, renovations and energy-efficient homes.

HIA chief Caroline Lawrey says judges look at a number of factors when deciding housing awards.

They include design, energy efficiency, quality of workmanship, design innovation and functional layout.

>> Metricon Homes' marketing general manager, Darren Mehl, says "flexible" open-plan living/dining/family zones "which bring families together to relax and entertain" are still the rage in home designs.

"Home theatres, rumpus rooms, home gyms and home offices are becoming more common because of changing lifestyles," Darren says.

"People are spending more of their time in their homes and are using their homes for entertaining, as well as working from there more often."

The Metricon spokesman says in keeping with these trends, people are looking to "create a luxury, resort-style feel in their homes".

"This includes an opulent master suite with large walk-in robes, media alcoves and spa ensuites," Darren says. "People have a desire for affordable luxury and this is being reflected in larger main bedrooms."

Porter Davis Homes sales and marketing director Paul Wolff says the relocation of the study from the front of the house to the rear communal areas has been another trend in housing design.

"Traditionally, the study has been to the front of the house, away from the living areas," Paul explains.

"We are finding in housing design, it is being accepted that the study should be close to living zones. It has proved to be very popular. In this way parents can keep an eye on children while they are on the internet. And conversely while dad is working in the study he can be close to the kids. So the family unit can be kept together."

Wall cut-outs with louvres or plantation shutters are also popular, Paul says. In this sort of set-up, the main bedroom area and ensuite can be visually separated or opened up as circumstances dictate.

"They (the louvres) could also be used in the wall separating the lounge from the dining area." ■



In Setting: Stratumwest (renovated in Custom-built Home over \$1 million)

Picture show
Home theatres are here to stay (above)

Fingers crossed
A design entrant in Custom-built Homes \$350,000 to \$500,000 (right)

Play to win
This builder hopes for success in the Renovations and Additions draw (far right)



In Setting: Jagat Developments



In Setting: Bay Constructions

>> HIA housing award categories

1. Victorian Home of the Year
2. Overall Custom-built Home of the Year
3. Overall Display Home of the Year
4. Overall Project Home of the Year
5. Overall Spec Home of the Year
6. Overall Renovations and Additions Winner of the Year
7. Overall Medium Density Development
8. Family Friendly Display Home
9. Display Home up to \$150,000
10. Display Home \$150,000 to \$250,000
11. Display Home \$250,000 to \$350,000
12. Display Home \$350,000 to \$500,000
13. Display Home over \$500,000
14. Custom-built Home \$200,000 to \$350,000
15. Custom-built Home \$350,000 to \$500,000
16. Custom-built Home \$500,000 to \$1 million
17. Custom-built Home over \$1 million
18. Project Home up to \$250,000
19. Project Home \$350,000 to \$500,000
20. Project Home over \$500,000
21. Spec Home up to \$200,000
22. Spec Home \$200,000 to \$350,000
23. Spec Home \$350,000 to \$500,000
24. Spec Home over \$500,000
25. Renovations and Additions up to \$200,000
26. Renovations and Additions \$200,000 to \$350,000
27. Renovations and Additions \$350,000 to \$500,000
28. Renovations and Additions Innovative Design
29. Renovations and Additions over \$500,000
30. Medium Density (2-5 dwellings)
31. Medium Density (over 5 dwellings)
32. Medium Density (Integrated Housing)
33. Apartment (High Density)
34. Special Purpose Housing
35. Energy Efficient Custom-built Home
36. Energy Efficient Project Home
37. Most Innovative Use of Steel
38. Small Commercial Project (under \$1 million)
39. Large Commercial Project (more than \$1 million)
40. Manufactured/kit housing
41. Residential Building Designer
42. OH&S Innovation Award
43. HIA Alec Fuller Apprentice of the Year
44. Industry Innovation Award
45. Customer Service Award
46. Marketing Award
47. Professional Builder (major builder)
48. Professional Builder (small/medium builder)
49. Professional Builder (renovator builder)
50. Residential Lifestyle Development