



Builders aim for recognition

These annual awards recognise the Coast's best builders

THE Master Builders is again calling on the region's builders to nominate projects they believe are the best in the industry.

Nominations for the 2009 Housing and Construction Awards close next week.

The awards recognise those at the forefront of building innovation and excellence in the housing and construction industry.

Master Builders' regional manager John Duncalfe said if anyone had a new home built over the past year that they were proud of, they should encourage the builder to nominate.

"The awards are a great way for builders to get public and industry recognition, especially in these strained economic times," he said.

"Winning an award provides an excellent platform for public acclaim and is a great publicity tool that builders can use to set their business apart from the competition."

The awards cater for entrants ranging from apprentices to trade contractors and small family businesses to the biggest names in the industry.

Last year saw the introduction of three new award categories: the Rising Star, Women in Building and Civil Contractor awards.

Mr Duncalfe said due to overwhelming success and the prevalence of civil building activity in Queensland in the past 12 months, these awards would again be part of the program in 2009.



Winning looks from the 2008 awards

He said the overall success of the Housing and Construction Awards could be contributed to the range of awards categories that include specialties such as Housing for Sloping Sites, Home Renovation-Remodelling and Best Heritage Style.

With more than 20 housing categories for display and contract homes, there is an award to suit any home, project or budget.

There are also categories for the commercial sector, which include Retail Facilities, Industrial Buildings, and Tourism and Hospitality Facilities.

Independent judges grade each project against criteria such as quality of workmanship, degree of construction difficulty, external appeal, siting and aspect, ingenuity, and amenities and aesthetics.

Major winners in 2008 for the Gold Coast region included Ingles Homes, which won House of the Year, and Watpac Aus-



tralia Pty Ltd, which took out the Project of the Year honours.

The regional and state award presentation nights are gala events on the industry's calendar and a chance for builders to showcase their skills.

Winners of the regional awards go on to be judged in the state finals, with the state winners announced in October.

Nominations close April 3. To qualify for the 2009 awards, the project must have been completed between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009.

Builders can call the regional office on 5597 7077 for more information or download an entry form from the Master Builders website www.masterbuilders.asn.au