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The Sunday Times

# HOME

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FLIPSIDE

## KING OF THE HILL

*This Yallingup residence was voted the best in the South-West*

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# REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

*Builder Todd Huxley's debut entry in the South-West Master Builders Building Excellence Awards dominated the competition to win this year's top honour*

WHEN builder Todd Huxley, of Studium, was commissioned to create this multi-award-winning slice of paradise, he could not have asked for a better building site.

The block, which is perched on the prestigious Yallingup Hill in WA's South-West, provided a constant source of inspiration for Todd, who would feast his eyes on the sweeping views of the aquatic playground below each day.

The project soon became a labour of love and Todd's painstaking efforts paid off when the residence received the Best Country Home award, plus three other top accolades, at this year's Master Builders Bankwest South-West Building Excellence Awards.

It was the first time the bespoke builder had entered the awards.

Awards judge Charlie Baggetta says the masterful level of carpentry skill, as well as the general attention to detail, were most impressive.

"Judging is based on the building excellence of all trades and the degree of difficulty on this project was very high and the end result is very eye-catching," Charlie says.

The three-level home has five bedrooms, three bathrooms, an expansive balcony and open-plan living spaces.

"The home is warm and earthy. We nicknamed it as Noah's Ark as there was lots of timber involved," Todd says.

"You know exactly what you're going to get with timber and how it will look forever. It is

there to stay, and here it blends perfectly with the ocean side."

This natural material is showcased to perfection, from the exposed curved beams used in the ceilings and balcony to the balustrades and victorian ash flooring.

"We had timber custom-designed and engineered to suit the specific needs of the home. We sourced it from Vicbeam in Victoria and freighted it over," Todd says.

"It was a beautiful design that warranted engineering and detail."

Designed by Sydney architect James Stockwell, the home's style is a modern take on the South-West beach lifestyle, with a unique oriental twist.

While its serene locale makes for a stunning vantage point year round, the project hit a few snags during its two-year build time.

Todd says the combination of the steep elevation and the wrath of Mother Nature proved difficult in the winter months.

"It is a large beachside block on a steep hill so there was a lot of excavating and crane work," he says.

"We had to be clever with the logistics and there was a lot of muscle and patience used throughout the process."

Yet the four building industry awards and peer praise certainly prove the hard work was well worth it. Not to mention that Todd has created a new South-West landmark that's sure to stand the test of time.

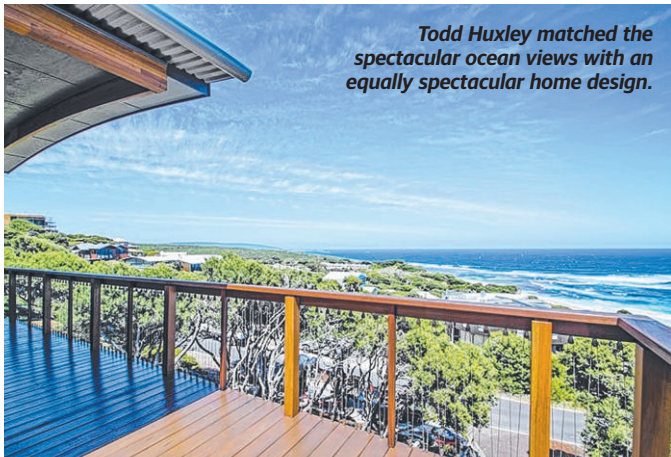
JADE JUREWICZ



**OVERALL BEST COUNTRY HOME; EXCELLENCE IN ROOFING METAL; EXCELLENCE IN CEILINGS; CONTRACT HOMES OVER \$1.5 MILLION**







Todd Huxley matched the spectacular ocean views with an equally spectacular home design.



PICTURES: ADAM TAYLOR, PROPERTY PORTRAITS

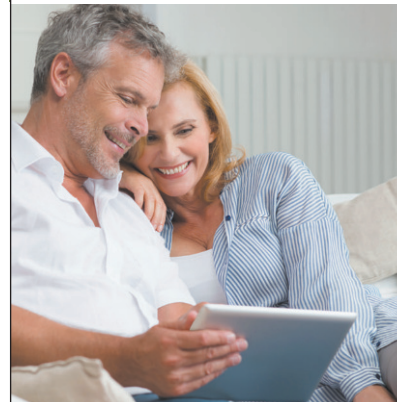


## FAST FACTS

- \* It was the first time that builder Todd Huxley, of Studium, had entered the Master Builders Bankwest South-West Building Excellence Awards.
- \* The home's design cleverly blends South-West beach style with oriental influences.
- \* The project was dubbed "Noah's Ark" due to its vast use of timber.

## get the look

**BUILDER** Studium, Dunsborough, phone: 9759 1088, [www.studium.com.au](http://www.studium.com.au)  
**ARCHITECT** James Stockwell, phone: 0414 504 720, [www.stockwelldesign.com.au](http://www.stockwelldesign.com.au)



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