

Kununurra doubles its winnings

Cooper & Oxley Builders has taken out the top award for Best Regional Project at the 2015 Master Builders-Bankwest Excellence in Construction Awards for its construction of the Kununurra Replacement Courthouse.

The 23 million dollar Kununurra Replacement Courthouse, located approximately 3,300km north of Perth, occupies the site of the town's original court house. The two storey building consists of the Magistrates and Jury courtrooms, registry and administration areas, plus jury deliberation, mediation and pre-trial conference facilities.

The architectural and interior design elements were selected to reflect the local landscape, with wide glazed windows, perforated aluminium panels, and art pieces selected by artists of the East Kimberley region.

This is the first time that the same region has taken out the top regional award in both the Master Builders-Bankwest Housing Excellence Awards and the Master Builders-Bankwest Excellence in Construction Awards.

Master Builders Executive Director, Mr Michael McLean, said, "It is unprecedented that the North-West has won both our top housing and top construction award in the same year."

"It is as rare as winning a tennis grand slam and something the North-West region should be very proud of," Mr McLean said.

Master Builders Regional Manager, Mrs Di Gilleland, said, "The challenges of building in remote locations like Kununurra are enormous in terms of skilled labour supply, availability of freight and climatic factors. To overcome these challenges and build a world class building like the new Courthouse in Kununurra is amazing."

"Ironically, mandatory builders' registration doesn't apply to this part of the Kimberley region but it should because buildings like the new Kununurra Courthouse should be built by registered builders like Cooper & Oxley," Mrs Gilleland said.

"As this is a government-funded project, taxpayers certainly got a first class building in their region," Mrs Gilleland concluded.

The Master Builders-Bankwest Excellence in Construction Awards were held on Saturday, 25 July at a gala function at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, attended by a record crowd of over 730 industry representatives and guests.

“This year we had a record number of entries from 69 different projects which covered work valued at \$3.4 billion. This reflects a strong commercial construction market across metropolitan and regional areas of the state,” Mr McLean said.

Congratulations to the other regional finalists of the night – Building Solutions for the Brendon Penn Crane Hire facilities (Goldfields-Esperance), Smith Construction for the Hawthorn House-Alzheimers Centre (Great Southern), CPD Group for its Carnarvon Dual Purpose Centre (Geraldton-Midwest), and Perkins Builders for its Head Office in the South West.

Cooper & Oxley Builders also won Best Civil Engineering Works for the Butler Railway Station and Best Retail Builder Under \$100 million for the Cockburn Gateway Shopping Centre.

A list of all the award-winning projects at this year’s awards can be accessed via www.mbawa.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2015-ECA-Results.pdf.

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