

Media Release

Top South West home brings the US to Australia

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- A stately American-inspired country home near Waroona wins top housing award
- Best commercial project award goes to aged care facility Hocart Lodge in Harvey

Imagine a grand Colorado ranch house fused with a stylish Hamptons holiday home then shifted across the world to a rural property near Waroona and the result is the 2019 South West Best Country Home.

The builder who proved capable of blending the various American influences into a superb Australian house was Palazzo Homes, who won the top home prize at the Master Builders-Bankwest South West Building Excellence Awards.

The house consists of a five-bedroom main residence, pool wing and private villa, each with its own kitchen and living areas. Massive hand-built stone fireplaces in each zone bring rugged mountain homes to mind and yet work harmoniously with the fresh white tones and elegant style of US coastal playgrounds.

Master Builders regional awards judge Charlie Baggetta said the workmanship was first-class throughout the huge building.

“The house is very impressive, Palazzo can be proud of themselves,” he said.

“The quality of work is exceptional throughout and some of the highlights are the custom-made cabinetry, beautiful stonework and imported slate roof, which lent itself to the Hamptons style.

“The tiling across a huge area, including large bathrooms and the indoor pool, showed precision workmanship which was amazing.”

As well as the top home prize, the residence won awards for best contract home in the over \$3.5million category and trade awards for tiling and roofing.

The top commercial prize was won by Perkins Builders of Bunbury for the \$15million expansion of Hocart Lodge in Harvey.

Hocart Lodge was a family home until the late 1960s, when Annie Hocart donated the house and land in memory of her husband John to provide care for the elderly in the Harvey area.

The growth of the organisation led to the new 60-bed development, which has doubled the size of the facility while maintaining its home atmosphere.

Mr Baggetta gave the construction the highest possible praise by saying: “That’s where I’d like to live when the time comes.

“The design is good, the level of finish is very high and the building process has been well managed. It was spread out into stages, which allowed the facility to continue functioning while the work was going on.

“I admire what the builder has done because the work is excellent in all aspects.”

Master Builders Executive Director John Gelavis said the South West awards attracted more than 100 entries and the projects added up to a value of more than \$255million.

“The South West is a cherished part of our state and it is great to see builders in the region can be held in equally high regard,” he said.

“The area is well known for its variety in scenery, lifestyles, housing and industries so it needs builders who can respond to that diversity by being adaptable and offering a wide range of skills.

“The Master Builders top WA home of the year award went to South West builder Paradigm Construction recently, which shows the high standards of the local industry.

“All builders can be proud of their award entries. Each one represents months of planning, coordination of specialist trades and attention to detail in delivering the finished product. They have been judged on the excellence of every aspect of the construction by experienced and highly esteemed builders.

“Anyone who is considering a building project, whether it’s commercial or residential, should seriously consider a Master Builders award winner.”

The winning commercial project will be put forward to compete with the best across the state in the 2019 Master Builders Bankwest Excellence in Construction Awards in July and the residential winner will progress to the WA housing awards next year.

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