

Media Release

Ritzy new buildings win top awards

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- Probuild Constructions wins Best WA Project for the Ritz-Carlton at Elizabeth Quay
- Best Regional Project prize goes to Crothers Construction for Albany residential care centre
- Top subcontractor is PWD Construction for work on the Curtin University Midland campus

The Towers and Ritz-Carlton development has triumphed in this years' Master Builders-Bankwest Excellence in Construction Awards.

The \$500million Elizabeth Quay landmark including 379 apartments, 205 five-star hotel rooms, restaurants and commercial and retail space has won the state's top construction award.

Awards judge Glenn Smith said Probuild achieved an impressive level of skill throughout the complex and large-scale project.

"The construction quality goes beyond workmanship into the realm of craftsmanship. The finishes, including Kimberley stone and southern forest timber, are magnificent," he said.

"Remote-controlled windows in the hotel and apartment rooms are an incredible innovation, tilting and rising to give unobstructed views across the Swan River.

"To complete a project of this magnitude on time, within budget and in a difficult riverside location with foundations deep below the waterline is to be commended. To also complete it with the highest standards of efficiency and safety is exceptional.

"In more than 30 years as a builder, this is one of the best new projects I have seen in Western Australia."

Master Builders Executive Director John Gelavis said the array of remarkable projects was a highlight in a difficult year.

"Among the entries this year are famous landmarks including the WA Museum, Bob Hawke College, His Majesty's Theatre and the Forrest Chase redevelopment," he said.

"The COVID-19 crisis has been a devastating blow to the WA economy and to many businesses so it's great to find a cause of celebration in the excellence shown by our construction industry.

"The awards themselves have been delayed by the pandemic but we had a strong field of 98 entries which together represent almost \$2.8billion in construction work and economic activity for Western Australia."

2020 Best Regional Project

Crothers Construction won the Best Regional Project award for the \$30million Juniper Korumup residential aged care centre in Albany including a new 101-bed high care facility plus offices, car parks and landscaping.

Mr Baggetta said smart ideas had been skilfully implemented in the cheerful, light-filled building.

“The construction features open spaces and lots of glass to make the most of natural light and enhance the connection between indoors and outdoors,” Mr Baggetta said

“Large structures with lots of corridors can be difficult for visitors to navigate but each wing has different finishes and décor to help people find their way around.

“The difficult, sloping site meant a lot of the brickwork had to be done from a scaffold, which adds to the complexity, but the standard was exceptional.”

Mr Baggetta said Crothers Construction worked with local tradies and suppliers to get Juniper Korumup built well and on schedule.

Subcontractor of the Year

The intricate brickwork across the face of the new \$20million Curtin University Midland campus won Alan Power of PWD Construction the award for Subcontractor of the Year.

Judge Richard Machell said the masonry was designed to suit the historic Midland workshop precinct and display the traditional skills of a master tradesman.

“It was an extremely challenging job which demanded a high degree of coordination, an eye for detail and a positive approach to achieving top quality results,” he said.

“Good communication between the head contractor, architect and subcontractor were essential.

“The configuration was so complex that each brick had to be placed at exactly the right angle, with the right degree of projection alongside the concrete and steel structures to meet the design expectations. It’s a stunning example of skill and precision.”

The awards were held on October 31 at Crown Perth. Some of the winning projects will go forward to compete with the best across Australia at Master Builders’ National Housing and Construction Awards which will be streamed online on November 28.

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