

Master Builders Regional Awards 2012

# Rustic timbers

**TIMBERWORKS AUSTRALIA: Best Outdoor/Alfresco Project**

**M**ORE and more home owners today are choosing to build onto their existing timber-frame house. This type of construction uses standardised dimensional lumber where the majority of the structural timber is small, known as a light or stick-frame housing.

In contrast, Timberworks constructions are self-supporting, using much bigger reclaimed timbers, so it can be added to any type of house.

This is an advantage for families as it allows them to plan additions and renovations as their needs grow and finances permit, should they choose not to move.

Owner of Timberworks Australia Rob Macfarlane, uses old reclaimed timbers handcrafted with classic mortise and tenon joinery to create a special feature addition to any home. What is also unique about Rob's work is there is no glue, nails or screws to hold these massive trusses in place, just time-honoured traditional craftsmanship.

Rob sources salvage and recycled timbers transforming these grand old bridge timbers into unique, beautiful interior design features. This offers clients an individual and



**Judge's comments:** The aesthetic appeal of this timber-framed pool cabana is created by using large recycled bridge timber displaying the bolt holes from its previous use, the timber frames and rafters have been pressure washed and left in their original form. The hip roof is covered in hand split hardwood shakes, creating a strong textured surface creating an individual appeal. The floor is finished in travertine tiles, complemented by a stone border around the tiled area.

sustainable option outside the current modern norms of building styles available today and a connection to our Australian heritage.

It's no longer just an exposed beam; it's now a piece of history. It's part of a story that's going into the home architecture and many people prefer this earthy style.

"Timber frame construction has experienced a revival with people looking for a more individual expression in their home building," says Rob. "They appreciate the history of the timber and the connection it brings to their living space."

More and more people are explor-

ing better ways to build housing and Rob's approach is not only to do with environmental impact of materials, but also a more encompassing understanding of the efforts, motives and approaches home renovators and those wanting to build have to solving these demanding issues. His craftsmanship ignites inspiration in those who share his passion for beautiful old timbers and his love of keeping their history alive. His work has been awarded by the Master Builders Association as the overall winner for Best use of Timber in 2011 and the Best Outdoor Alfresco Project for 2011 and 2012.



## Byron project gains merit award

**A**N EXCELLENT building site on top of a hill in the Byron Bay Hinterland, with expansive views to the north.

The original site comprised of four separate dwellings and an orchard with many different types of fruit trees. In stage one of the project three of the dwellings were removed and a studio was renovated for the owners to live in during the construction period of the main house

The project was designed and run by Space Studio of Byron Bay. Stage two of the project, the main house, was a large, two bedroom residence purpose built for a couple who had specific requirements.

A modern contemporary design the house includes large open area of travertine flooring inside and out.

Three huge double glazed doors completely retract on the northern side to open the whole house to the outside. The house has a front and a back kitchen, a cool room and its own pizza oven. The kitchen is linked by retractable windows to a spacious outdoor covered dining area

**PRIESTLEY BUILDING: Merit for Best Contract Home (\$1-2 million)**

**Judge's comments:** This project features a modern contemporary designed home situated on top of a hill in the Byron Bay Hinterland, with expansive views to the north. Three huge double glazed doors completely retract to the northern side to open the whole house to the outside. The house has a back and front kitchen with cool room and pizza oven, linked by retractable windows to a spacious outdoor covered dining room. Vibrant colours have been used to offset the neutral tones of the house with the bright pink blade wall running the length of the wall displaying a striking façade.

The house has also been built according to green principles, solar hot water, and a three kilo watt photovoltaic system.

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### Extension makes room for the grandkids

IT MAY have been Bob Haigh's own house which scored the accolade, but the master builder injects the same passion and expertise into all his projects.

The Murwillumbah first-floor extension, which was designed to take full advantage of the river views, was designed with Bob's grandchildren and adult children in mind.

"I wanted somewhere for the kids to play and stay when they came over," says the Murwillumbah grandfather.

The project includes a striped feature wall, two large bedrooms, a walk-in bedroom, ensuite, separate toilet and a large patio overlooking the river.

Bob of Haigh's Construction, who has worked as a master builder in the area for 52 years, says it was the first time he entered the competition.

"I was tickled pink when I found out about the win," he said.

**Judge's comments:** This addition was for the benefit of the couple's adult children and grandchildren and includes two bedrooms, ensuite, robes and balcony. The use of corrugated iron cladding and a curved roof structure has made remarkable improvement to the appearance of the old building. The owner designed the impressive feature wall to the stairwell.

**HAIGH'S CONSTRUCTIONS: Winner of Best Renovation/Additions (\$100,000-\$200,000)**

**PROJECT - WATEGO'S BEACH, BYRON BAY.**

This project started as a small termite and water damage job that quickly turned into a full renovation of the client's three storey home. The renovation included five bedrooms, the re-design of three bathrooms, two living areas, kitchen, dining, laundry and three courtyard areas. This was well needed to utilise better space, natural lighting, and ocean views.

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