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Island sanctuary comes up gold in Queensland home awards



Mia Casa, which is spread over 2000sq m, won Queensland's house of the year award.

The Australian | 12:00AM September 30, 2017



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A southeast Queensland "island sanctuary" overlooking the Pumicestone Passage has won the state's building association's house of the year award.

Mancorp Quality Homes' Mia Casa is spread over 2000sq m and three levels offering an expansive master bedroom wing in the main house, an open-plan kitchen with scullery, home theatre, timber cellar and a four-villa series of self-contained guest wings.

Last night it was on a list of spectacular homes that included a Lighthouse-themed Gold Coast waterfront mansion and a \$2m-plus renovation from brick-and-tile to soaring stacked stone, polished concrete and timber at the annual Master Builders Association Housing and Construction Awards.

Mancorp owner Mark Forster says no expense was spared to make the Bribie Island home, an elegant, resort-style, tropical residence.

"When you walk in, you feel at home," he says. "It's very liveable, it's typical Queensland. It's open and airy. It's relaxed."



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Mia Casa's build was not without its challenges. On the water's edge of the Pumicestone Passage on Bribie Island reclaimed land, the construction required 180 rock-anchored piers to support the pool and underground cellar.

Getting the right layout to make the most of the location was also critical, Forster says. To take advantage its water-facing location, the home layout was configured along two sides to capture outlooks to both the Passage and up to the Glasshouse Mountains from every room.

Each bedroom also opens to a patio garden, which flows to ponds and the Passage-facing main deck. "It makes the body of the home feel as though it is floating on the water — the ponds lap right up underneath the home," Forster says.

Finally, each room has an individual bespoke finish — timber joinery for the cellar, a major ceramic artwork from Canadian artist Ken Gangbar on the entry wall, and floor-to-ceiling glass and mirrors.

"It has that resort feel," he adds. "It was about not having a bland wall or a bland ceiling in any room. It had to have a statement, not an overpowering statement, but it's there."

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