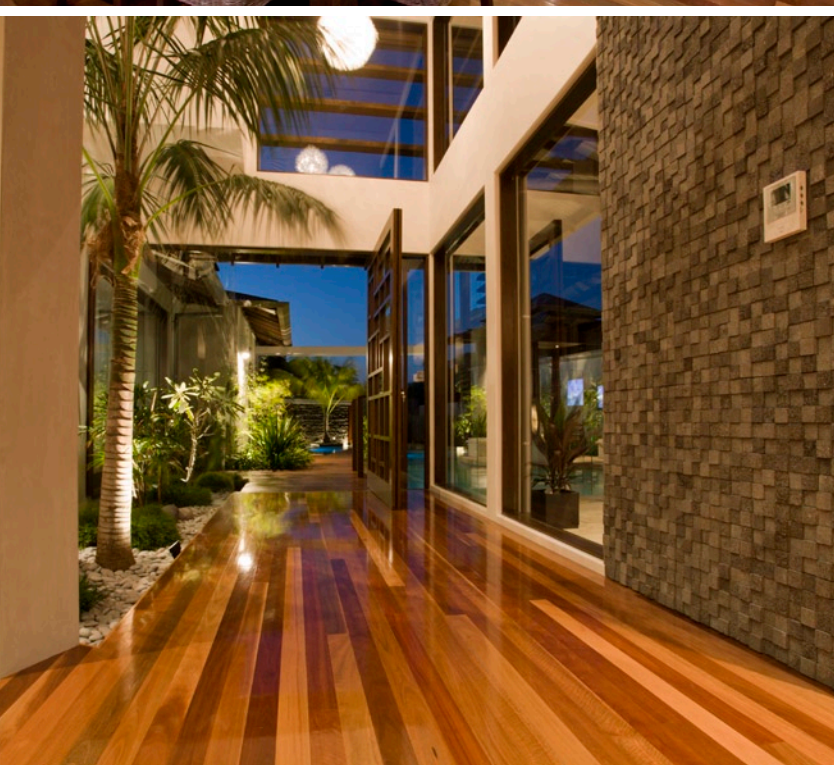
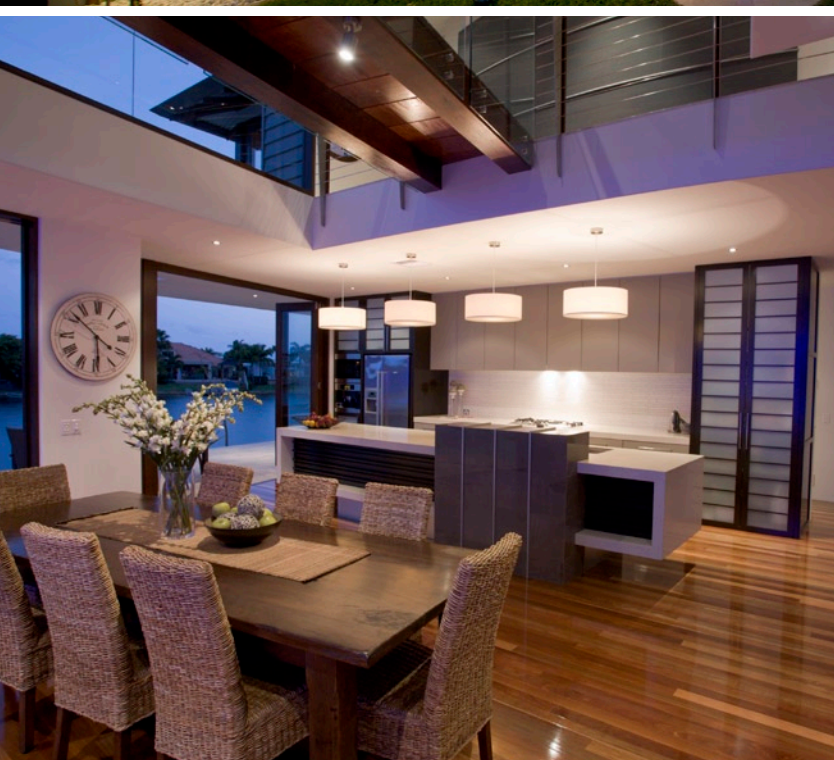




# Down on the Water

The island resort themed Saltwater House, designed by Chris Clout, is a project definitely worthy of recognition.





Confirmation of this came in 2009, when the Building Designers Association of Australia bestowed upon Chris the National Design Excellence Award. The home has gone on to receive 10 awards in total - a phenomenal result.

This striking waterside home boasts Chris' unique interpretation of Japanese design including Asian-inspired pavilions that create striking rooflines throughout. From its arresting street appeal, entry to the tropical paradise comes with passage over a floating timber boardwalk suspended just above the large pool that dominates the outdoor space. Grading of the water depth creates a glistening beach-like appearance, reminiscent of the shimmering waters of the Whitsundays. A palm tree springs from an island in the pool and a timber awning shades a comfortable day bed accessible over stepping stones. To say this area is opulent would be a tremendous understatement.

From the street, over the pool and through to the canal, this Noosa Waters home is all about space, comfort, ambience and simulation of the holiday resort lifestyle. A family home, it has four self-contained bedrooms, each with its own unique character and en suite, plus a guest suite on the ground level that shares a powder room. The home includes a media games room, laundry, study and a double garage plus an open plan kitchen, dining and living room that are exposed almost completely to the pool and the canal.

Blurring the boundary between indoors and out into non-existence, the entrance is through a symbolic front door into an atrium of tall palms, lava stone feature wall and exotic silver ball lights. Curved concrete columns wrap the internal palm trees, separate the kitchen from the entry and draw the eye through the main living area to the canal.

A feature wall of metallic-bluestone look porcelain tiles surrounded by built-in cabinets frame the flat panel

wall-mounted TV, with Indonesian ply paneled ceiling enhancing the Asian sensibility. Aluminum beading and blue LED backlighting to the feature bluestone wall combine with landscape and pool lighting to create the illusion that the main living pavilion - that sits square with the water - is floating.

Gloss-polished spotted gum flooring on the lower level is the platform for a floating island bench in the kitchen, with light coloured marble and dark hand-crafted Japanese style cabinetry. The kitchen enjoys relaxing water views and breezes from either side as does the remainder of the expansive living areas.

The volume of the central living space is doubled by a void over the area. A timber bridge joining the two bedroom wings and a large porthole overlooking the canal underscores the importance of the surrounding water to the interior design.

Chris' attention to detail is captured in every aspect of the home. From the intricate French-polished cabinetry to the custom Colorbond guttering created especially to suit the Japanese styling of the home, virtually no aspect of this masterpiece is standard and off the self. The result is an awe inspiring home that captures everything that is good about enviable tropical living.

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