

# Youthful Exuberance

Chris Clout is a man whose one-of-a-kind execution of modern architecture and lifestyle is only superseded by his desire for ultimate success. From his quiet and relaxed demeanor, you would hardly guess that Chris is both an award winning designer and a shrewd businessman in one. From Geelong to Vanuatu, the 27 year old is well on his way to conquering the building design world.



Creating lavish homes akin to the world's most luxurious holiday resorts, Chris' relative youth gives him the advantage of thinking much bigger than his older counterparts – a distinct benefit in the increasingly 'bigger is better' architectural landscape.

The palatial home of Chris Clout Design in Queensland's Sunshine Beach is a fitting showcase of both smart home living and the extravagant features that only his clients can enjoy. The tranquil pool and floating spa, lush landscaping and relaxed alfresco living area on display materialise exactly what Chris is all about – lifestyle.

Chris doesn't design homes - he designs lifestyles and, in doing so, he pushes the envelope that bit further. Resort-style pools strung with timber walkways and surrounded by arching palms lit from below. Houses with breezy indoor/outdoor spaces that are flushed with custom-designed features – these are just some of the inclusions that go towards Chris' five star designs. "Most of my clients want me to create a house that makes them feel like they're on holiday."

Chris thus draws much inspiration from his adventures around the globe. From the South Pacific to South America, he's seen the best of the best in holiday resort design and is keen to apply the finest features at home. "People are loving the Asian look," says Chris. "The Japan House really kicked that style off. A lot of people call and ask for a house just like that one." The Japan House is Chris' most awarded project yet, its sheer indulgence winning him the prestigious Building Design Association of Australia's National Design Excellence award at the age of just 25.

While certain aesthetics are popular with his clients, Chris doesn't like to get locked into a particular style. "A design has a lot to do with the shape of the land, the aspect and what the clients needs. To that end, each design is unique. It's not like you can look at a house I've done and immediately say 'that's a Chris Clout design'."

Chris' passion for building and design started at the tender age of six, when he conceived and constructed his first house. Albeit of the cubby variety, that initial project kicked off the last two decades of pure passion and continuous child-like enthusiasm for the building design industry.

Lucky enough to circumvent formal education, Chris pursued the carpentry trade. His desire for hands-on work experience led his parents to entrust him with the creation of their family home in Jervis Bay, NSW – this rather special project becoming an early indication of Chris' ingenuity and unique vision.

Having designed and built hundreds of homes since then, Chris attributes his success to a background in building and carpentry. "As a carpenter, I am designing with construction and materials in mind. I think it really helps that I know how to put things together."

Designer, builder and foreman, Chris is the ultimate perfectionist. Taking on every role, he ensures each project is completed exactly the way he imagines it. In wanting to deliver an entire package, he is often disinclined to accept a project if he can't inform the decisions on everything from furniture to landscaping. "You just have an image in your mind, a clear vision and it's just so exciting. It just takes so much work to get it right in realistic terms."



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Hence, he enjoys a project the most when he is given free reign and a generous budget to create whatever he envisages. "It's great to have a client who puts full faith in you and says 'just create something special'. That's when the best can come out of a designer. I love being creative rather than just being told what to do."

From retiree havens and luxury summer homes to unit developments and lavish tropical resorts, Chris' portfolio is expanding exponentially. The only thing growing faster than his business is the gamut of ideas and concepts he is eager to employ.

Perhaps it is Chris' youth that gives him a distinct edge, with his excitability and vast imagination bringing about a confidence that he is capable of achieving anything – an attitude inspiring to all of us.

Chris has worked hard to achieve what others in his field are still dreaming about, and is spreading his wings to bestow the bespoke holiday lifestyle on clients across the globe. Outshining some of Australia's biggest designers with his innovative ideas and big dreams, Chris has become a leader in the evolution of Australian architecture and the creation of those private spaces that are the most special to people.

Chris Clout Design  
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