



Clout shows cutting edge

my HOME
Ann Rickard steps inside Chris Clout's office, which shows just what he can achieve.



Chris Clout opened his new office late last year with a party for his clients, builders, contractors and friends. As guests gathered amongst the tropical gardens by the pool (with its changing coloured lights and built-in Perspex spa) there was most likely one thought on their minds: Chris Clout means it when he says he wants to conquer the world. Admittedly, it is just the world of building design, but it's his world. And, at 27 years old, he's already on his way to achieving that giddy goal. With more than 30 homes and buildings being worked on right now - from Airlie Beach to Noosa Waters to the Gold Coast and down to Victoria - Chris Clout needs every one of the seven staff he now employs. His new office is also a showroom, a place to give clients a sample of what to expect when he takes on a commission to design their home. Every element in the sitting area of the office features a component Chris Clout has

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already incorporated into previous designs. Chris can sit with potential clients on his cream leather couch and, with the press of one of many buttons on his C-Bus module, show them how louvres will open, blinds will glide down, colours in the pool will change, how a water feature (bamboo, hidden in the trees) will softly begin cascading into the Perspex spa and then over the edges to fall quietly in the pool. "This is a mini set-up of a living room," Chris said in his office. "It's a display of the way we do things. People can get a feeling for my design, see the level of

work we do." And with that statement he presses another button on the C-Bus and the LED lighting on the zinc walls changes colour. It's all quite surreal, almost futuristic. With the technology employed in this office, clients can see computer-generated pictures of a finished home right down to the smallest detail...nothing is left to chance. All Chris Clout homes are designed with energy rating in mind. Windows are tinted. The zinc wall with the LED lighting will never rust and will outlive many generations to come. Even though his office shows what remarkable achievements can be made in a home, Chris still has bigger plans. "My goal is to have a really big area of display and materials with hundreds of workers in it and have them all working for me," he said. "I will just throw everything over to them and design resorts around the world. I'd like to do resorts in the Maldives, Thailand, Bali - create, create."