



Designer Chris Clout, whose Japanese-inspired house, pictured, won several awards, takes some time out at the beach. PHOTO: PATRICK OBEREM

Designs taken to world

Chris Clout already has more awards than his shelves can handle.

He has just added another three Building Designers Association of Queensland (BDAQ) awards to the eight he collected during the past year from BDA.

In addition to the three national awards from the Building Designers Association of Australia (BDAA) presented in April, including the National Design Excellence Award which crowned him the "best of the best", Chris Clout is living his goal of designing award-winning properties all over the world.

He has already created 50 homes for clients in Bali, Hong Kong, Melbourne, south coast of NSW, Canberra, the Gold Coast, Airlie Beach and Brisbane, as well as what he calls his beach shacks along the Sunshine Coast strip from Alexandra Headland

The award-winning design work of Chris Clout is making him sought after around the country and overseas.

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through Peregian and his home town of Noosa.

This Sunshine Coast house is a reflection of his goal to stand out from the crowd.

Japanese-themed, the house has a strong street impact which continues through the front gate where stacked granite columns and timber slats in circular form hide the landscaping from the road. Water is an essential

element in the property.

"I wanted the water to lead people into the property," Chris said.

"Most houses begin with the front door but I wanted this to begin with water, so it would have a resort-style feeling."

A flowing canal leads to a central courtyard pool where the house wraps itself around water. A timber blackbutt board walk



guides the visitor past tropical plantings and soothing water, past a free-standing Japanese ten-room building and then the pool.

Inside the house, Shoji screens, feature doors, Australian beech floorboards, Indonesian wood-panelled ceilings, oodles of sliding glass doors and louvres, and the clever use of timber features give it an unmistakable Japanese look.

Dark timber and cream limestone have been used in the kitchen for dramatic contrast and blend well with high Indonesian ply ceilings.

Sliding dark timber doors open the living area to the pool, and on the other side, sliding doors open the house to a wide timber deck.

Chris' design takes into account everything for practical living.

"I used a stone island bench to separate the kitchen from the living areas and gave it three sculpture-like brushed aluminium features," he said. "Dark timber slats around the island bench give it Japanese

appeal."

The lounge area has been given the Japanese treatment with a feature wall showcasing travertine squared off in striking design function by aluminium beading.

The master bedroom suite is hidden behind the kitchen, a large tranquil space with low bed and white bedding, enjoying cleverly screened views.

Custom designed Shoji screens shield the ensuite wardrobe and bathroom from the bedroom's main space. The bathroom is Japanese simplicity with low feature cupboards beneath the wash basins featuring timber slats.

Down a blackbutt timber staircase with polished stainless steel wire, two large bedrooms lead off an open-plan area that could be used as a family room.

A large bathroom services these two bedrooms. Also downstairs is the media room, which can be completely sealed off from the open area.