## Design tailor-made for top gong

MOJO Design has made history by winning the coveted Premier Award at this year's Queensland Building Designers Awards.

It is the first time in the 20-year history of the awards that a renovation project has won this accolade.

Gerard Smith clinched the award for the Noosa firm by transforming an ugly duckling of a home in Eumundi into something "truly fabulous".

Mr Smith said he felt honoured and humbled by the recognition of his work on the house, called Satori.

"I am absolutely over the moon. This is the first home that I have entered into the design awards and to be awarded the industry's most coveted accolade is a real honour," he said.

"People work in this industry all their lives and strive to achieve the Premier Award and never get there.

"To actually win it, I feel very humbled."
Building designer Mr Smith and his business partner Ian Gorton only recently launched Mojo Design.

The company transformed a three-bedroom block home on the outskirts of Eumundi into a palatial abode complete with new master bedroom and ensuite, media room, gym and powder room.

A range of sustainable features were also incorporated, including passive solar design, subterranean concrete tanks for water harvesting, pre-wiring for a solar energy generation system and energy efficient hot water systems.

Building Designers Association of Queensland president Greg Pershouse said the result was a "truly fabulous home".

"This sympathetic approach to the natural environment created a harmonious balance between interior and exterior which simply takes your breath away," he said. "It's a testament to the absolute star quality of Gerard's work.

"Renovations are often handicapped by budget limitations and existing building restrictions, so this was no easy feat."

Satori's owners, having moved from the northern beaches of Sydney, wanted a home that would cater to the changing needs of their family.

Mr Smith described them as "dream clients" who gave him a very open brief which enabled him to design something truly special just for them.

Popular Coast designer Chris Clout also shone at the awards, scooping Best New Home 451-600sq m (Winbirra), Best Pool or Water Feature (Winbirra), and Best Residential Alterations & Additions \$300,000 - \$600,000 (Allure).

The win brings Mr Clout's awards total to 36 in just four years of business – a sign, he says, that he is on the right track.

"Having won best in the country in my first year, it was impossible to top that so I set out to win every category," he said.

"I particularly like winning the best pool awards, as they are an integral part of my designs.

"I want to do bigger homes and resorts with bigger pools and bigger dreams now and it's starting to happen," he said.

"Clients are ready to spend again."





LEFT: Best residential alterations category winner Allure by Chris Clout.

BELOW LEFT: Winbirra House by Chris Clout was named best new home 451-600sqm.

BELOW RIGHT: Chris Clout won best pool or water feature for the pool at Winbirra House.







TOP SHOT: Gerard Smith was named the winner of the BDAQ Premier Award.

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