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Award success gives firm clout

12:00a.m. 6th August 2008

A stunning five-apartment complex in James Street at Noosaville has been recognised as the best designed-residential building in Queensland for Noosa designer Paul Clout.

The Queensland Building Design Awards, held in Brisbane on Friday night, proved to be a family affair with nephew Chris Clout taking out two categories.

But it was Paul who stole the show by winning the top gong, the Premier Award, for the third time in 10 years as a designer.

He paid tribute to developer Allan Stewart for allowing him to dispense with some of the usual constraints that applied to apartment design.

"Allan wanted something upmarket - something not normally seen in terms of design and finishes in apartments in Noosaville which have traditionally been lower cost," Paul said.

"It took a bit of courage from Allan because he could easily have gone for the standard eight, two-bedroom apartments."

After being given a blank canvas to work with, Paul came up with a three-level design that incorporates two penthouses on the top level, each with its own swimming pool, but with two bedrooms on the middle level.

The penthouses, which have river glimpses, have both been sold with a price tag of about \$2.5 million.

The middle level also includes a one-bedroom studio apartment, also with its own pool.

The complex also includes two townhouses over two levels, also with their own swimming pools.

Paul said not only was the design "out of the square", but the finishes were also outstanding.

"We used a lot of timber flooring, a lot of stacked slate stone walls and a lot of sandstone on the terraces. It was a great opportunity to do something different," he said.

While the building and construction industry may have slowed a little this year, Paul said the amount of work his business had on hand had not dropped off.

"We're actually doing a lot of work outside the region at the moment," he said.

"We're doing a relatively nice house in Ballarat for someone who wants a Noosa-style house. Obviously that will be a bit different because design is very contingent on the weather.

Paul said while he didn't flaunt the awards, they were "a nice little pat on the back for the effort you put in".

"It does give the business a bit of credibility," he said.

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