



Far North Queensland green designers recognised in awards

Nick Dalton | August 14th, 2013

They included five Building Designers Association Queensland (BDAQ) awards and two national Built Environment and Design Institute (BEDI) awards.

The national most sustainable new home was won by Sophie Barrett of Green at Heart and most sustainable renovation awarded to Chris Dimarco of Dimarco Designs.

The state award winners included Ernest Raso, who won new homes between 250-350sqm and residential interiors, for the Tableland's "Lake House", Kevin Stoter picked up new homes up to \$250,000 and Sophie Barrett won sustainable buildings, with a special commendation to Max Slade for the design of the landmark bridge at Herberton Historic Village.

Far North Queensland BAQ branch president Chris Dimarco said he was pleased to see that all the winners at the awards had a strong focus on sustainable design.

"The north Queensland branch of the BDAQ has illustrated that sustainable design is the way of the future, with our harsh tropical environment it is very important that our homes be sustainable. It was great to see this recognised at state and national level," he said.

Mr Raso's Lake House featured on national television program Australia's Best Houses, one of only two designers from the Cairns region.

Ms Barrett said she was thrilled that her affordable sustainable display home design, which was launched at Sustainable House Day in 2012, had won both a state and national award.

The house, which has picked up five awards, has a 9.5-star energy rating.

The home was a collaboration of members of the Tropical Green Building Network (TGBN) and met their goal to create a cool and comfortable sustainable home with virtually no ongoing running costs for only \$250,000.

The home by Kenick Constructions is on display at weekends at Redlynch Valley Estate.

Kevin Stoter of Cad Impresa won the new homes up to 250sq m category with a lightweight, low-impact residence reflecting a post-modern style with "funky" signatures and interesting spaces.

The national BEDI award for most sustainable renovation was awarded to Chris Dimarco of Dimarco Designs. His renovation of a Queenslander allowed him to increase the energy efficiency rating from three to eight stars.



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