



Winners' circle

Take a look at the homes that have been awarded top gongs at the Housing Industry Association Awards

>> Words Andrew Brasier

Victorian Home of the Year

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Atkinson Pontifex

Cheltenham-based builder Atkinson Pontifex has earned the top honour from the Housing Industry Association (HIA) this year.

About 800 industry representatives recently saw Atkinson Pontifex chiefs receive the Victorian Home of the Year award at a gala ceremony at Crown Towers.

The award was in recognition of the builder's work in helping create an ultra-contemporary home with great views of Port Phillip Bay.

The brief for the builder and its architect, Peter Maddison, was to make the most of the natural surroundings at an elevated block in bayside Beaumaris.

The home is divided into two elements – a south-facing cantilevered, black zinc-clad living zone and a two-storey north-facing bedroom area. These two areas are separated by a circulation zone, with the roof

arranged over them in such a way as to allow the northern sun to bathe the living areas in natural light.

The two major building components are further separated inside, with first-floor bridges linking them.

Steel frames and deep windows accentuate openings, while energy-efficient glass and native plants are used throughout.

The judges said the home was “an interesting architectural design”, which had required great thought in the development process.

“This house has ticked all the boxes, with a wonderful relationship to the outdoors and use of views and it fits into the streetscape and neighbouring properties,” they said. “This is an interesting piece of architecture, which is contemporary in form and makes good use of a range of materials.”

They added the home has “multiple sustainability measures, including a thermal chimney and a 20,000-litre rainwater tank”.

“This home is excellent value for money. A unique and outstanding package has been delivered.”



“This project presented a unique opportunity for this experienced builder and its cutting-edge architect Peter Maddison, well-known for designing Transport at Federation Square and the observation deck at Eureka Tower, to produce a contemporary home that responds to its amazing natural surrounds.”

HIA's Top Homes magazine