Awards flow for designer

Interior designer Mark Gacesa scoops the pool at state awards night

By **ALICIA BUTWELL**

THE Sunshine Coast can lay claim to having the best interior designer in Queensland after Mark Gacesa of Ultraspace took out the Queensland Interior Design award last Friday night.

The state award came after Mark took home a host of awards and commendations at the HIA Sunshine Coast Housing, Kitchen and Bathroom Awards recently.

Winning the Sunshine Coast Kitchen and Bathroom design awards as well as Interior Design over $50,000, Mark was also the interior designer/co-designer on the property which took out House of the Year, winning a total of eight awards.

He also won two commendation awards and was the interior designer/co-designer of another property that received a commendation in the category of Custom House over $2 million.

Humbled by the awards, Mark said winning the Queensland Interior Design Award was a good one to have but he was also appreciative of his HIA wins.

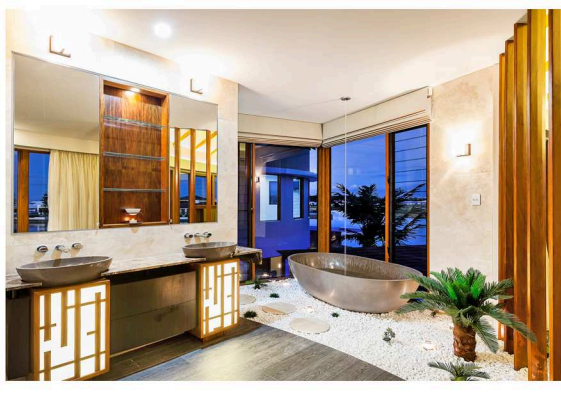
"The fact that the Central Beach House won House of the Year, Custom Built Over $2 million and People's Choice, it's nice to have all that recognition for your design work," he said.

"Interestingly enough it was the Runway House that won the Queensland Interior Design Award, so it's great that both houses were recognised."

The design brief for the Central Beach House was to create a home that had the ambience of being on a constant holiday.

"The clients wanted to feel like they were on holidays all the time. They wanted it to feel like a resort, to have that contemporary Balinese feel and basically feel like a holiday resort," Mark said.

"They also do a lot of entertaining so it had to be designed to blow people away and every time guests come over...not only guests but

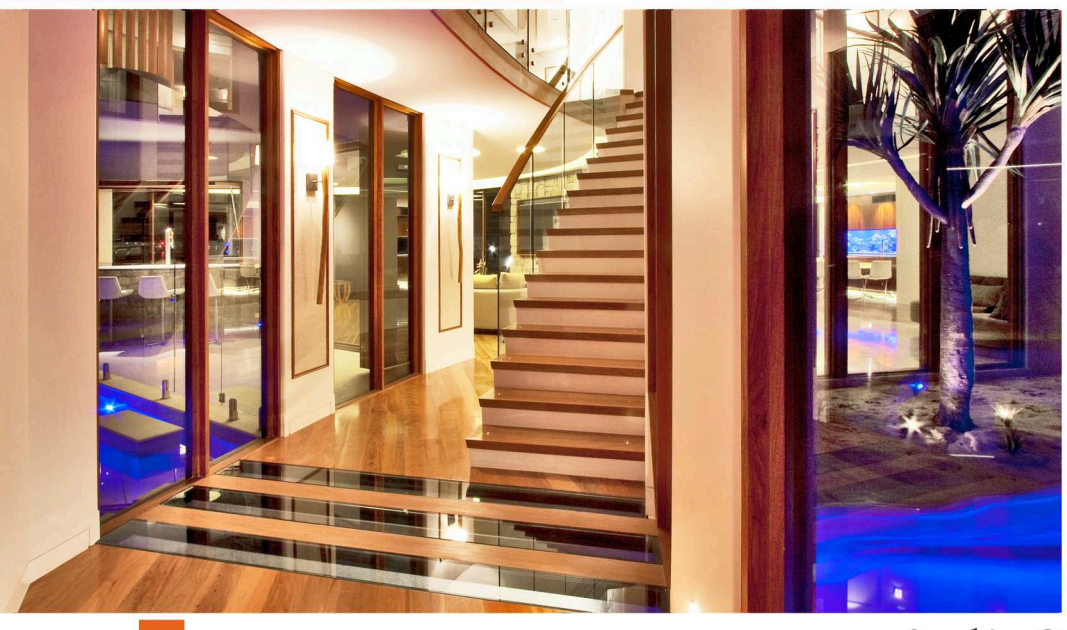


also themselves.

"And they prefer staying there than going on holidays now."

With a wide scope for creative control, Mark worked closely with the architect and the builder to create an impressive home.

"I always take the architecture into consideration and liaise with the client so I'm giving



STATE WINNER: The Runway House won the Queensland Interior Design Award; (opposite page) multi-award winning Central Beach House

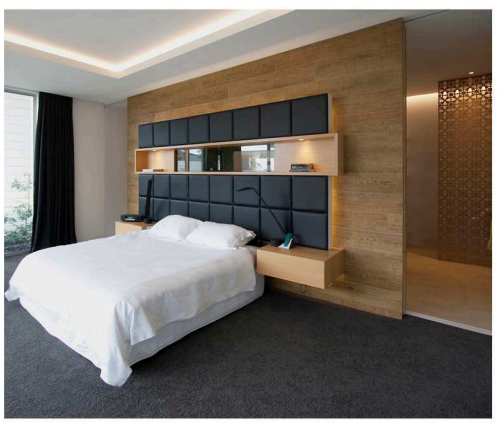
kudos to the architecture but also giving the client exactly what they're wanting at the same time."

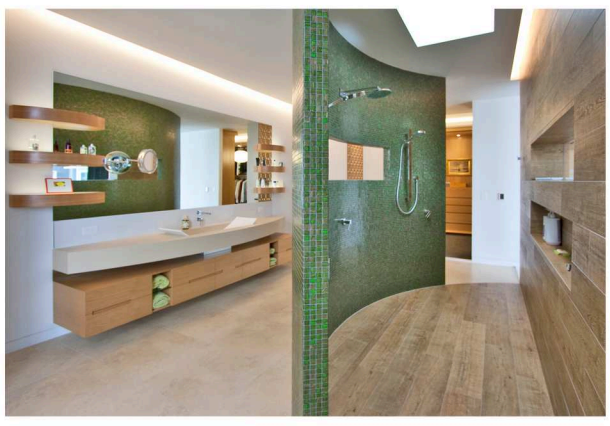
At this particular home, Mark drew inspiration from an element of the building design and repeated it throughout the home.

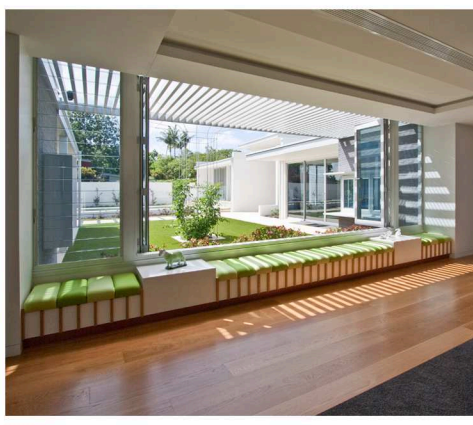
"Inspiration gets drawn from the smallest things sometimes, so as a designer you always need to have your wits about you and always pay attention to everything around you," he said.

"Tim Christopher from Golden Beach Design was the designer and he had a pattern worked in above the garage door that was part of the building, so I took that and put that through the pattern router.

"So there are custom lights that I had made, because again in the architecture there's this boat shape which is repeated throughout the house – where the spa is, some bedrooms are that shape, so I've taken that element and created what appears to be a rusty or copper leaf shape which has this fret-style block pattern which is repeated throughout the house and also in custom lighting."







The two award-winning properties are very different in their interior design style and it was great to see diversity in Mark's work.

"I think it's really important not be a one-trick pony, particularly if you're a creative person, you need to be able to throw your hat into different arenas and pull off different styles.

"With Grant Smith's job (at Buderim's Century 21) I've not done Hollywood regency before, but I had a lot of fun doing it," Mark said.

At the Runway House which won the Queensland Interior Design Award, Mark created a Californian-style space which was reminiscent of Richard Neutra's Kaufmann House.

"It is very California style in its design and I love the open feel of it, like a gallery space with three-metre ceilings," Mark said.

"It has this serenity about it."