

HOUSING AWARDS FOR THE BEST BUILDERS

Information packages, including entry forms, were sent to most residential builders in the Perth metropolitan area in July for the 2018 Master Builders Bankwest Housing Excellence Awards. Master Builders Director Michael McLean gives us an overview of what these prestigious awards are all about.

THE Master Builders Housing Awards seem to come around quicker every year.

Maybe that's because everyone seems to be busier and fitting more and more into their days than ever before.

From both a builder's and homebuyer's perspective, the Master Builders Awards provide a valuable benchmark on how to assess the quality of workmanship across different sectors of the housing industry.

Most builders tend to specialise in one or two areas for the main part of their business. That's why there are different housing categories, such as:

- Contract or individually designed homes from under \$180,000 to over \$3 million.
- Display homes from under \$190,000 to over \$650,000.
- Alterations and additions from under \$150,000 to over \$1 million.

Each of these categories are segmented into different price categories so builders are competing with their peers on equal terms.

The focus of our team of about 24 judges, each being a registered builder, is the quality of workmanship.

That's what sets our awards apart from others; the judges are only assessing the traditional skills of a master builder. Street appeal, interior decor and design are not relevant.

The judging process is meticulous and can sometimes involve much discussion to come up with a winner because every entry is a winner in that builder's opinion.

Subjecting your team's workmanship to rigorous and independent scrutiny can be courageous and enlightening.

Homebuyers, of course, are the real winners because each year builders put in a bigger effort to win the ultimate Master Builders Top Home Award in their price category.

Specialist trade awards for plastering, ceilings, bricklaying, floor and wall tiling, cabinetmaking and painting are assessed as part of a seven-week judging process which commences in October.

Customer service is one of the most keenly contested awards, along with best new builder (less than five years registration), innovative construction on a small lot, energy efficiency and best steel building.

Entries are open to all builders and close on September 1, 2017 with the presentations to be made on Saturday February 24, 2018.

Builders can obtain an entry package by contacting Monique on 9476 9800 or by downloading one from the MBA website www.mbawa.com/awards/online-awards-system-housing.

