



WINNING EDGE

Explore this year's recognised stars of the housing industry

>> Montage Developments
 Victorian Home of the Year
 > Spec Home Overall winner and Spec Home over \$500,000 winner
 > Spec Home, \$350,000 to \$500,000 winner
Top Homes says: "Judges said the home showed a high-quality finish, good attention to detail and respect for its surroundings."



Out in front
 A French Provincial facade sets the scene for inside (top)

House style
 A balance between elegant and homely living has been achieved (above right)

Heart of stone
 Impressive features include the stone hallway (right)

Bright light
 The use of natural light caught the judges' attention (opposite top)



>> Words Andrew Brasier

This year's HIA Home of the Year oozes French provincial charm and offers quality and luxury in spades. About 1000 building-industry representatives saw the Malvern-based builder, Montage Developments, recently receive this prestigious award in a gala ceremony at the Melbourne Convention Centre.

It was a big night for Montage, taking home four awards. The builder, which picked up gongs in the Spec Homes Overall and Spec Homes over \$500,000 categories for the same house, has produced a four-bedroom Kew residence packed with glowing features. The home, designed by architect Phillip Mannerheim, was built with a growing family and school-age children in mind because it sits in the heart of a private-school belt, and is within walking distance of some of these educational institutions.

Montage Developments, which had already built homes in the area for several families with school-age children, also wanted a visually balanced residence.

Its large kitchen and entertaining areas are equally well suited to feeding a large tribe after school.

And the 3m ceilings on both floors add to the home's sense of light and space.

Among the impressive features are a stone hallway, luxurious formal and informal living areas, study, retreat and north-facing entertaining area. Importantly, the house was designed to complement its surroundings, including the landscaping.

Judges said the home showed a high-quality finish, good attention to detail and respect for its surroundings.

Housing Industry Association Victorian executive director Caroline



Lawrey says: "One of the best features of the home is the effective use of natural light, with large windows and bifold doors framing the view to the back yard and helping to create a feeling of space.

"The design successfully captures the often challenging balance between elegance and homeliness. The high-quality finish and craftsmanship are also standout features."

Caroline says the layout caters well to the needs of a developing or mature family because it offers four large bedrooms and a study or fifth bedroom.

She adds all members of the family are catered for because the home has an upstairs retreat, as well as a ground-level family/meals zone and a separate formal living/dining area.

"From the outside the French Provincial design is simple, yet striking, without being overpowering, and is respectful of the character of neighbouring homes," Caroline adds.



>> Bray Constructions

> Overall Renovations and Additions winner
 > Renovations and Additions winner, over \$500,000

Bray Constructions has succeeded in creating a home which makes the most of its outlook to Port Phillip Bay.

Following a design brief from architect Leon Meyer the house was gutted to virtually frame stage so it could be refashioned to meet the needs and requirements of the clients.

The judges said: "This was a fresh, smart transformation of a very sad dwelling to one that now offers a spacious contemporary environment. All the elements are clean, crisp and inviting."

Top Homes says: "The result is a well thought out and constructed family home. The building capitalises on views of Port Phillip Bay, Mornington and Mills Beach."



Modern moves
 A spacious and modern design followed after the house was gutted (above left)

Striking gold
 Bray Constructions was hailed 2007 HIA Overall Renovations and Additions winner (above centre)

Bay watch
 This house was designed to make the most of bay views (above)