

AVALON

AWARD WINNER AMONG BEST

AND THE CLIENT COMES FIRST

Wendy Kay

TWO very different northern beaches homes have been recognised as among the best designs in Australia.

Avalon building designer Peter Downes has taken his award tally to 41 after receiving two more gongs at the 2011 Building Designers awards.

Mr Downes was winner of the best new house (250sq m to 350sq m) for a home in Clareville and received a commendation for designing a Mona Vale home on 2ha of private bushland.

The Clareville home was inspired by the owner's love of timber.

"The clients asked me to design a Balinese beach house that would fully embrace the natural beauty of their lush site," Mr Downes said. "The owners wanted a beach house with a warm tropical feel which took advantage of the Pittwater views. They were also keen to use some recycled timber they owned as a feature of the roof framing."

Old grey or red iron wood



telegraph poles were used as exposed roof trusses and veranda posts to give the house a cosy, romantic ambience.

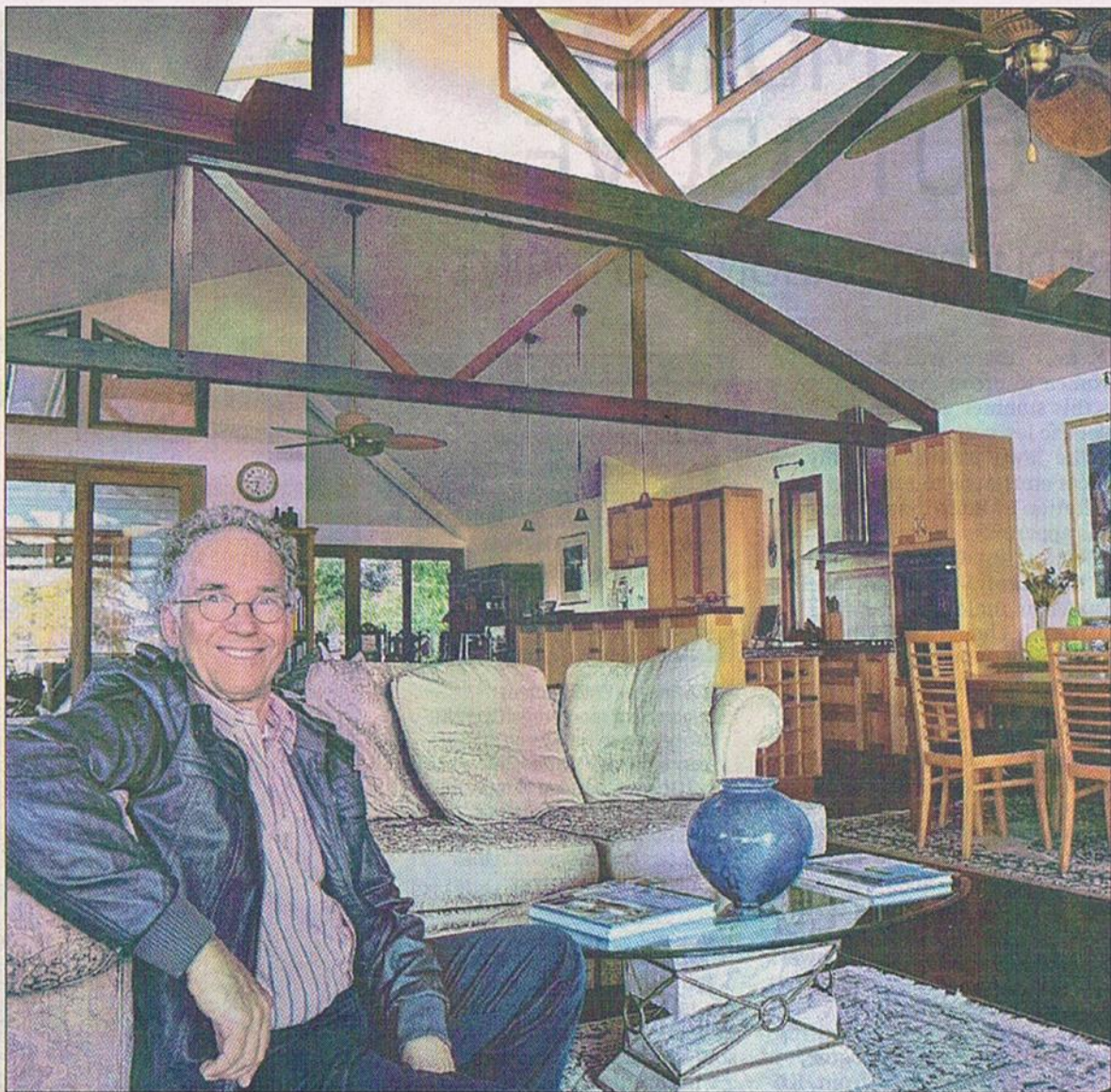
The land surrounding the house in Mona Vale offered a host of different opportunities.

"The absence of the usual restraints such as privacy, view-loss issues and side setback restrictions offered a lot of geometric freedom," Mr Downes said.

After 20 years in the business of designing homes Mr Downes said the main difference in design these days was the focus on energy rating.

"Today, every new house has to be energy efficient up to a high standard," he said.

For more information visit peterdownes.com



Peter Downes designed this house to cater for owners' love for timber trusses.