

FOR anyone interested in architecture and building, the British TV series Grand Designs is essential viewing.

Despite missing out on the Australian debut of the series because their house was too far advanced, Nathan and Sherinah Peck's Jamberoo home was no less a grand design.

An impeccably built home featuring the latest in sustainable living has been placed at the pinnacle of the building industry.

When the Pecks from Jamberoo set out to build a house that could be completely self-sustainable they couldn't have known how successful it would be.

Mr Peck, who owns Impeckable Constructions, teamed up with Colin Irwin from Nowra architects BHI to build what would for a short time become the Pecks' award winning home, Pinnacle.

The trio settled on the name Pinnacle because it reflected the property's hilltop location.

The 336 square, modern linked-pavilion home is perched on a hill with views over Jamberoo to the sea.

While they didn't know it at the time, the name also now describes the building's place in the Master Builders Australia (MBA) hall of fame.

Not only was it the first time Mr Peck entered the competition, it was the first time one house had won two national categories.

After making its way through regional and state awards, a tough feat in itself, the Pecks were shocked to hear their name called twice during the MBA awards night at Parliament House recently.

The house won the energy efficient housing category and the contract houses \$800,001 to \$1 million category.

"This is a pretty good indication that we're heading in the right direction," Mr Peck said.

The passion behind the building was clearly evident as the judges picked over every aspect of the house.

At the design stage, BHI director and architect Colin Irwin faced several challenges: the need to power a modern home using only solar, to take care of waste water on site; to use solar power for warmth and ventilation to control temperature; and to balance the need for a northerly aspect while still maximising views to the east.

Mr Irwin, who has faced similar challenges previously, said he enjoyed working with the Peck family.

"We have the view that architects and builders should be working together. We can learn a lot from each other. This was perfect because the builder was also the owner.

"To win these awards against everything in such a competitive field was an amazing boost. It's been a lot of fun," he said.

Mrs Peck was hands-on too.

"I used to have breakfast with the plans to get a picture in my head of what it would be like.

"I've learnt a lot along the way and really enjoyed sourcing the sustainable products.

"At first I wasn't sure how we'd go living in a pavilion house but it was lovely. I loved how the sleeping section was separate from the living section," she said.

The Pecks have moved on from Pinnacle and are now working on their next project.



HIGH POINT: Nathan and Sherinah Peck from Jamberoo and Colin Irwin from BHI architects recently won two national building industry awards.



SIMPLICITY: Even the shower connects directly with the environment.

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OUTLOOK: Pinnacle is aptly named – for its position and achievement in design.



LUXURY: The pavilion home is made for relaxation.