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Wave wins Skyscraper award

Broadbeach high-rise tower The Wave has trumped the most prominent new buildings in the world to win the Silver Award in the highly prestigious 2006 Emporis Skyscraper Awards.



The \$150m development placed second in the global awards, ahead of the Eureka Tower in Melbourne, 1180 Peachtree in America, and Hesperia Tower in Spain. Brisbane's tallest tower Aurora also made the top 10 list.

New York City's iconic Hearst Tower won the annual competition, which recognises outstanding international achievements in high-rise building design and construction.

World-renowned buildings such as the One Wall Centre in Vancouver, Kingdom Centre

in Riyadh, St Mary Axe in London, Taipei 101 in Taipei, and Turning Torso in Malmo are past winners.

Macau businessman Dr Stanley Ho, who developed The Wave, says he is deeply honoured that The Wave's cutting-edge design had been recognised among such a prestigious field of nominees.

"It is an amazing achievement for The Wave to be acknowledged with this award when it was up against so many influential and outstanding buildings across the world," Dr Ho says.

"We wanted to create a truly landmark building, an international signature for the Gold Coast that would help put the city on the world stage. And it seems we have achieved just that.

"Compared to many of the other projects in the running for this accolade, The Wave was virtually unknown, but the senior editors praised it for its unique design concept.

"For The Wave to compete against major international projects, many involving several hundreds of millions of dollars, and to win the Silver Award is a tribute to everyone who has worked on this project."

The Emporis Awards jury is comprised of Emporis senior editors based in various countries around the world, including Russia, America, Canada, Germany and Singapore. Emporis Buildings is considered the world's leading authority on building data.

The Wave, which was designed by Gold Coast architects DBI Design, stands 111m tall, boasts 34 floors, and is situated in a prime Broadbeach location, bounded by Surf Parade and Victoria and Albert avenues.

DBI Design project director Raith Anderson says the building stands out because of its iconic look, which was created by design director Barry Lee.

He says The Wave caught the eye of Emporis Buildings, which pre-emptively contacted the design team and asked them to submit information on the building. Entry into the awards is via nominations.

"Emporis Buildings found out about The Wave and approached me about three months ago, telling me they wanted to include it in the running for the awards," Anderson says.

"We thought it would be a long shot since the building was unknown compared to some of the other candidates, but we understand we went very close to winning.

"The Wave even led the voting for the first day. Emporis has told us their senior editors liked the building very much.

"One judge told us it was easily his favourite of all high-rises finished in the world last year."

He says the unique architecture of The Wave was inspired by nature.

"The original design concept was formulated around the idea of a ribbon caught in a stream, wrapping around a stick," he says. "The other image that came to mind during the design creation was waves going up the beach, on to the sand and overlapping each other.

"The Wave's design is so unique that when you say 'let's meet at The Wave', everyone instantly knows exactly what you are talking about."

Anderson says another appeal of the building was its successful mix of retail, commercial and residential space.

The Wave comprises a ground-floor retail precinct, two levels of commercial space, 118 residential apartments housed on floors five to 33, a pool and gymnasium on level four, and the rooftop Residential Club Floor on level 34.

Anderson believes that The Wave has helped the Gold Coast earn a place on the world stage in terms of international standard building designs.

"This accolade will draw international attention not just to The Wave, but the Gold Coast in general," he says.

"Dubai is going crazy in terms of cutting edge designs, but the Gold Coast is up there.

The Gold Coast is becoming a world-class city and it is being recognised on the international stage, even if Australians have been slow to see it."

The Wave's commercial component is hugely popular and already fully-leased.

Tenants include international coffee house Starbucks, a seafood brassiere, a teppanyaki bar and a contemporary Australian restaurant and bar.

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