

Lightweight luxury

It seems hard to believe budget was a consideration in this expansive four-bedroom home that also has a study, media room, gym and huge open plan living area. Not to mention the workshop and huge garage surrounded by five patios.

The rationale for this design is based on clean lines, bold form and simple materials, says designer Norman Richards.

"Construction budget was limited, so the house is mostly conventional timber stud with metal roofing, and the cladding is a composite of rendered brick veneer for its thermal mass, and rendered HardiTex® [system] for lightness and ease of construction," he says.

"HardiTex was used extensively and allowed a seamless transition between the rendered brick veneer and lightweight elements,

and provided continuity from inside to outside. It was used for the fascias, soffits, patio ceiling and boxed-in beams, and also eliminated the need for expensive brick lintels over the large window openings.

"Sliding doors and louvre windows allow passive ventilation, keeping the house cool in summer, while extensive glazing on the north side and the thermal mass of a concrete slab and ceramic tiles keep the house warm in winter.

"While a zoned air-conditioning system has been installed, its use has been minimised through passive solar heating and good ventilation.

"The house is a comfortable and practical contemporary home designed to take in the expansive 270-degree views of the Sunshine Coast hinterland of Queensland," he says.

