

Luxury beach house in under two days

Leah Fineran | December 16th, 2009



interiors and European light fittings.

Currumbin awoke to parts of a luxury beach house were being moved in with trucks yesterday

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JUST 24 hours ago this Currumbin site was an empty block but today it will house a beachfront mansion.

Six semi-trailers, a 40-tonne crane and a fluoro-clad army of workers descended on the \$2.6 million site yesterday to bring to life the owner's dream of a beach house for Christmas.

The two-storey kit home by Brisbane's Happy Haus is a first in Australia.

While kit homes are not a new concept, this Happy Haus modular home has been designed by Owen and Vokes architects and arrived on-site complete with luxury fixtures, beech-panelled

Happy Haus founder Toby Lewis said the formula also meant the luxurious home could be built and installed for \$700,000 -- a fraction of the cost and time it would take for a 'normal' home.

The house arrived in the sleepy village in seven 'pods' yesterday from a Yatala warehouse and was gradually clicked into place throughout the day.

The 300sq m white weatherboard home was due to be completed yesterday afternoon but rain delays forced crews to resume final works this morning.

With the final pods in place, the electricity and plumbing will be connected and everything finished by 9am -- just 27 hours after construction started.

Lewis, 27, was inspired to create an environmentally friendly, stylish home that could be built quickly after a 'horrible' experience building his first home.

"It was a horrible, painful experience and I thought there has to be a faster and cheaper way to do this," he said.

Since launching Happy Haus in May, two pre-made designer homes have been built and installed -- one on North Stradbroke Island and one as a display home at South Bank in Brisbane.

Mr Lewis said he expected to install up to 30 homes across Australia in 2010.

The Currumbin home is the firm's first two-storey project was was built in three months by Hutchinson Builders.

"I am excited to see a house of this scale and quality installed in such a short period of time," said Mr Lewis. The ground floor has a three bedrooms, a den, a laundry and deck.

The second storey has the kitchen, living and dining room and the master bedroom with ensuite bathroom. Two decks surround the house and a pool is to be installed in the ground floor.

Mr Lewis said only 3 per cent of homes in Australia were architect-designed and Happy Haus was striving to make great designs more accessible.