

MASTER BUILDER

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Excellence in Construction Awards

All the 2012 winners revealed inside

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Master
Builders
Association
New South Wales

OPEN HOUSE: Master Builders winner honoured

It's a rare building that is recognised as noteworthy by the Historic Houses Trust of NSW. Recently reworked on an extensive scale, 98-year-old Kharkov House in Bellevue Hill is a credit to the skills of its renovator, Master Builders award winner Mardini Constructions.

A recent winner in Master Builders Excellence in Housing and Pool Awards 2012 was selected by the Historic Houses Trust of NSW as one of an exclusive list of venues for its Sydney Open Focus Tours.

Kharkov House in Bellevue Hill was renovated by Mardini Constructions Pty Ltd, a new milestone in the career of builder Elvis Mardini, who was Master Builder of the Year 2010.

This year's award was for House Additions/Alterations/Renovations – \$5 Million & Over.

The existing heritage-listed two-storey home, built in 1914, perches on a sheer mountain-like rock formation, over 18 metres above street level.

The design brief from the architect required an extensive renovation and roof attic addition for the existing house, and a complete restructuring of the steep front landscape to create a garage/entry at street level and a new level midway up the cliff face.

In the words of Elvis Mardini it was "a daunting and unprecedented challenge", a description with which the 2012 Master Builders judges agreed.

"The commitment of the builder to accept the challenge of building on such a difficult site with such huge proportions was an achievement on its own," they said. "The work has included major rock excavation, natural rock walls and the reuse of excavated material for external stonework."

BEST-LOVED BUILDINGS

Sydney Open is a biennial event that gives Sydneysiders the opportunity to embrace their city by exploring its architectural heart.

On the first weekend of November the Historic House Trust opened the doors of many of the city's best-loved buildings and took visitors behind the scenes.

Landmark buildings included

Hyde Park Barracks, which was recently inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list, Parliament House, Francis Greenway's celebrated St James' Church, and the Great Restaurant on Level 7 of David Jones, where a State Banquet was held for the young Queen Elizabeth II in 1954.

In this elevated company, Kharkov House was opened for focus tours, one of only six such properties across the entire city.

The recently completed renovation of the house drew praise from the fastidious experts of the Historic Houses Trust.

"This is one of those seriously glamorous properties that leaves

you feeling more than a tad jealous of the owners," they said. "The owners spent two-and-a-half years on the revamp, which included the extensive renovation and attic extension of the existing house and a new vertical access to the house, with the construction of a custom-designed glass passenger lift."

BRIGHT FUTURE

Mardini Constructions is also a winner in this year's Excellence in Construction Awards (see page 60) for its construction of Harry's Park, a project designed by Harry Seidler & Associates to honour the late Harry Seidler's contribution to architecture and also to create an

urban park for public use.

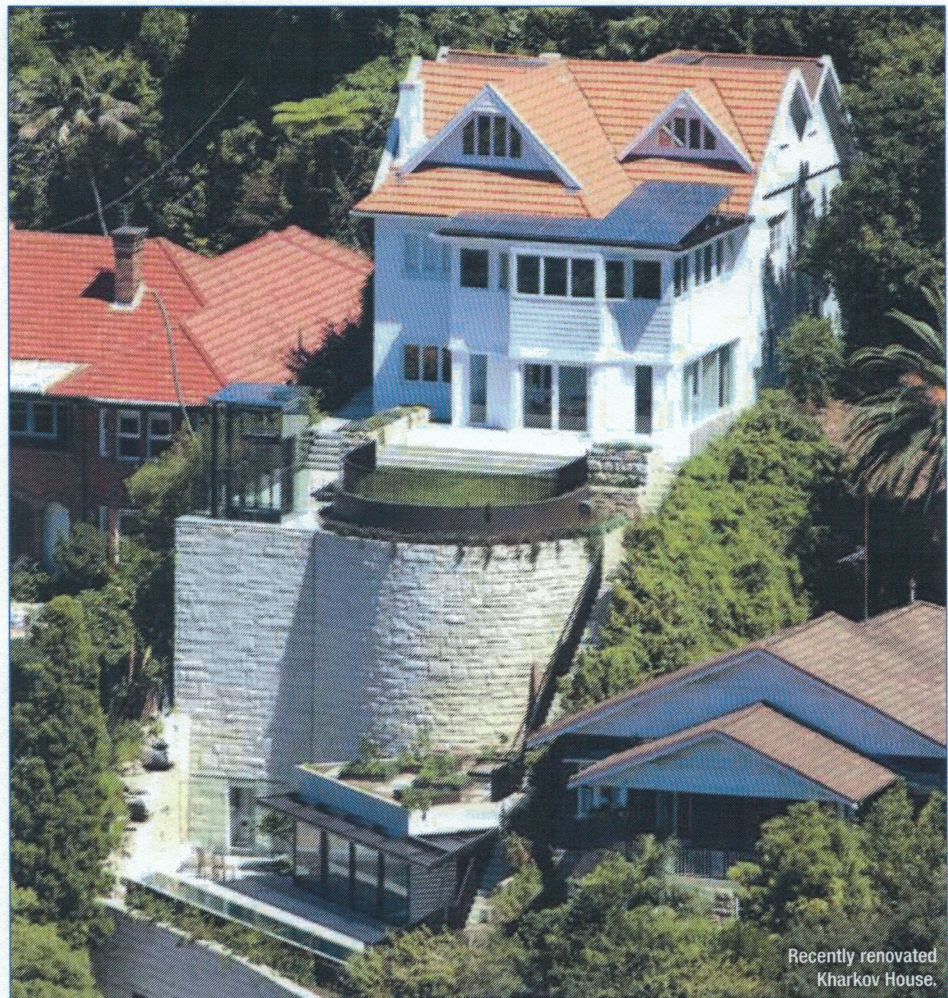
And with a healthy forward order book of prestigious projects, the company's future looks bright.

"We're a medium-sized building company specialising in high-end, difficult constructions," Elvis Mardini says, "where the most important aspect is perfect finishes and happy client, architect, engineer and designer. The emphasis is on a loyal and happy staff and subcontractors, who share the same mentality as we do. Perfection is all in the detail."

For more information:

www.mardiniconstructions.com.au

www.hht.net.au/whats_on



Recently renovated Kharkov House.