

She's pushing parameters



Siobhan Pearson checks out one of the company's latest creations

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SIOBHAN Pearson is a sight in a blue and white flowing top, laughing and showcasing her latest home design amid a posse of sweaty tradesmen and builders.

She is the CEO of Gold Coast-based construction company Brentnall Great Australian Homes. Its latest project is a stunning Balinese-inspired home at the Huntington Downs estate in Maudsland.

Against the flurry of activity, the sounds of machinery and maze-like steel frames frames, the vivacious CEO explains her philosophy that has seen Brentnall Great Aust-

ralian Homes build more than 2000 homes around Australia in its 26-year history.

"I greet everyone with a hug and a kiss because I like to nurture builders and tradesmen – construction sites have to be happy," she said.

"I am passionate about encouraging women into the industry. They bring so much to the table, particularly when it comes to listening to what clients want, and that is what we do – we help clients create their dream home."

Working along her sidekick and 'cheeky' husband Darby, Mrs Pearson is all too happy to point out mistakes that men make when home design is left to them.

"Laundries the size of ensuites, no storage, not enough drawers, horrible fluorescent lighting above mirrors that create headaches, poky pantries, nowhere to store the Christmas tree – there's an endless list," said Mrs Pearson.

Brentnall Great Australian Homes has built all over Queensland, from Charleville to Rockhampton, to a luxury villa pair in Main Beach where villas sold for \$2.8 and \$3.5 million respectively.

"I started early – I bought my first piece of real estate in Sydney when I was 18 for \$12,000 and sold it six weeks later for \$32,000 – I had a good start," said Mrs Pearson.

"I do have a very good relation-

ship with clients. For clients out in the bush, I go and stay with them during the building and I go shopping with clients to help them select finishes and furniture," she said.

Mrs Pearson is big on a sustainable approach to building – so when the giant 850sqm, five-bedroom Balinese home at Huntington Downs is completed later this year, it will be powered by solar panels and put electricity back on to the grid.

The home is tipped to be one of the most spectacular display homes the Gold Coast has ever seen.

"I like pushing parameters," said Mrs Pearson. "I'm not afraid of anything."