

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2009

## OUT OF TOWN



Yes, sometimes I do manage to leave my desk! This weekend I was privileged to have been invited to Hamilton Island, courtesy of the new owners, the Oatley Family to view the Islands stunning new yacht club and villas.



Designed by renowned Australian architect, Walter Bada and with landscaping by celebrity designer, Jamie Durie, the villas were designed to offer a unique lifestyle for either owner-occupiers or those holiday-makers wishing to experience all that Hamilton Island has to offer.



The design of the villas has captured the essence of tropical living with a look of understated elegance and to take advantage of the amazing views and prevailing breezes. Interior finishes include natural timbers - rough-sawn and dressed, muted Australian tones of khaki and coffee which is central to the overall ambience.

The architect reflected that inspiration for the design came from drawing on thematic elements in the local environment which includes marine and bird life, shells and petals. Once the vegetation matures, each villa will enjoy privacy from lush landscaping that will blend with the natural surroundings.

Those fortunate enough to own one of these villas will gain Founding Membership to the Hamilton Island Yacht Club with privileged access to all the facilities including a private members' level and members' health club.



The yacht club was officially opened on Friday night by Queensland Premier, the

Hon. Anna Bligh, at a star-studded event and fireworks display.

On Saturday I visited the new Golf course and Club on neighbouring Dent Island, followed by a tour of the villas and yacht club where I was among a select few who had the opportunity to be escorted through the development with the architect. On Saturday night Collette Dinnigan presented her 2010 Resort Collection "Santorini Sands" alongside the beautiful pool at Qualia, where I was privileged to stay while on the Island.

Sunday was the commencement of Audi Hamilton Island Race Week and we viewed the start of the race aboard Audi's Ghost Boat, which provided a unique opportunity to experience close-up the excitement and learn more about this exciting sport from our hosts.

You will see more of the Hamilton Island experience in the January/February issue of Australian Home Design.