

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

GOLD COAST OPEN HOUSE 2020: DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

Architecture and design festival Gold Coast Open House will do things differently, moving the bulk of its program online for the 2020 event on October 17 and 18.

There will be on-the-ground tours at one Surfers Paradise mystery venue that has never opened its doors for the six-year-old festival before.

And a new Gold Coast Open House 2020 website goes live on October 17 offering armchair tours and a mix of professional and student films of significant buildings, places and spaces that will get people talking about architecture and design, old and new.

GCOH 2020 chair Pia Willemsen said the organising committee used lockdown to re-imagine an event that was COVID-safe but could still showcase great design on both sides of the border.

“We had to put our thinking caps on. It’s been a process, finding a way to reinvent an event and maintain the interests of sponsors in a climate that has been tough on everyone,” she said.

“In previous years, thousands of people participated in Gold Coast Open House, visiting as many locations as they could squeeze into a day.

“Some major adjustments have been made to ensure the health and safety of our volunteers, home owners and members of the public. We’re offering a virtual key to the city instead.”

Gold Coast Open House is a free event but some activities must be booked. These include:

- Guided mystery tours at a Surfers Paradise location on the weekend of October 17 and 18. Without giving too much away, this tour ventures inside a place that epitomised surf, sun, sand and luxury summer holidays in the mid-to-late 1970s. The tours are COVIDSafe. (This event is booked out)
- Register for an armchair tour of multi-award winning Cantala Avenue House at Miami. Watch a seven-minute film about the Houses magazine House of the Year 2020 winner, then join a live Q&A with inspirational Gold Coast architect Matthew Eagle from ME on Saturday, October 17, at 3pm. Register at www.goldcoastopenhouse.com.au
- SEQ Water hosts virtual tours of Gold Coast Desalination Plant at Tugun. Kids have never been allowed to join tours of the plant which is capable of producing 133 million litres of pure drinking water a day. For the first time, littlies get the chance to marvel at the strange mechanics of this public utility on both Saturday and Sunday this year! Register at www.goldcoastopenhouse.com.au

The new Gold Coast Open House website launches on Saturday, October 17. Highlights include:

- A gallery of high-resolution photographs of 10 award-winning Australian Institute of Architect Gold Coast and Northern Rivers Region 2020 houses, buildings and public projects. These include the new St Joseph's College at Coomera, The Island at Surfers Paradise and the Home of the Arts (HOTA) Green Bridge.
- Student films that offer new perspectives on Gold Coast Open House visitor favourites Gold Coast Aquatic Centre at Southport, Smith Collective at Parklands and KDV Sports Centre at Carrara or showcase newcomers that include The Pink Hotel at Coolangatta, Carrara Sports and Leisure Centre and Somerset College's newest education building.

In other news:

- Get snapping and compete in the Gold Coast Open House Focus on Architecture photography competition.
- Gold Coast Open House has for the first time offered a video bursary to four emerging architects, sponsored by Philip Follent, former Gold Coast City and Queensland Government Architect, and advocate for sustainable city shaping and environmental stewardship.

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