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Victoria Cabin Named Among Australia's Best Homes

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A spaceship-style cabin in Victoria's High Country has been honoured as one of Australia's finest homes of 2025. The Sawmill Treehouse, designed by Mansfield-based architect Robbie Walker, won the "New House Under 200 Square Metres" category at this year's Houses Awards. The prestigious awards, presented by *Houses* magazine, recognise

excellence in residential design across the country, with standout projects also from New South Wales and Queensland.

The Sawmill Treehouse combines innovation, restraint, and a respect for natural surroundings. Raised on stilts and surrounded by towering eucalyptus trees, the compact structure prioritises sustainability without compromising architectural ambition. Robbie Walker's design reflects a growing trend towards minimalist living and efficient use of space, especially in regional areas. Judges praised the cabin for its thoughtful spatial planning, understated elegance, and harmony with the rugged landscape. 

Four homes in Victoria earned national recognition across various categories, further cementing the state's reputation as a hub for creative residential architecture. Other winners included homes built with reclaimed materials and rural properties that challenge conventional design standards while remaining practical and affordable. As urban housing prices continue to climb, these awards highlight a shift in interest toward smart, modest-scale dwellings that balance form, function, and cost.

The 2025 awards reflect a growing appetite for homes that serve as more than just dwellings. Australians are increasingly seeking structures that offer a connection to place, climate resilience, and longevity in design. With soaring construction costs and density challenges in urban centres, the recognition of these regional homes points to a broader movement. Designs like the Sawmill Treehouse show that quality and innovation are not limited to metropolitan postcodes. As the housing conversation moves beyond square footage and into sustainability and lifestyle, the spotlight rightly falls on those buildings with vision and discipline.

