



Far north pavilions

A RELATIVELY UNTOUCHED STRETCH OF QUEENSLAND COAST OVERLOOKING THE CORAL SEA IS BEGINNING TO ATTRACT ATTENTION

About 90 minutes drive south of Cairns, Mission Beach and its environs in Far North Queensland have managed for decades to hover just below the tourist development radar.

These days, however, all that has changed. Pristine beaches and World Heritage-listed tropical rainforest are increasingly luring upmarket travellers and residents to the town and surrounding areas.

The idyllic habitat is proving the perfect locale, too, for a number of architects who are designing a slew of luxury holiday houses, such as the one-bedroom retreat Queensland architect

Chris Vandyke designed for Las Vegas-based Australian landscape photographer Peter Lik. Situated atop nearby Bedarra Island, the house consists of a cluster of pavilions, with separate guest accommodation, all integrated into the surrounding vegetation. Lik and Vandyke took their inspiration from African village architecture for the wooden structures, which have wraparound views over the Coral Sea.

The very recent emergence of the boom could save the area from some of the worst excesses perpetrated at other formerly pristine Australian destinations (see story page 40).

