



Making framing child's play

Shapland Swim Schools have been in the business of teaching kids to swim for more than 35 years. The purpose-built school facilities are located throughout South East Queensland, and CEO Chris Shapland knows that an important part of the durability and comfort of his swim centres is the materials they are constructed from.

The last two swim schools that Chris Shapland has built have featured Hyne Beams 17 H3 treated portal frames from the engineered Hyne Truebeams range. This range is particularly suited for roof spans over large spaces and is treated for weather-exposed structural applications, where both strength and appearance are important design requirements.

Chris specified Hyne Beams 17 H3 treated beams for their strength, durability and ability to handle their toxic environment – housing heated pools at 32 degrees.

He noted that “the beams are wet regularly, which means you can't use any other product. You could use aluminium but it corrodes over a period of time – soft metal beams are just hopeless after one season.”

Shapland needn't worry about that problem with the Hyne Beams 17 H3 treated portal frames – as they are treated with Construction Sealer at the factory and then Chris maintains them with a painting and after care regime which will protect the softwood from the elements.

Learning to swim can be a frustrating and sometimes daunting experience, and that is why Shapland strives to ensure his centres are built with the comfort of both parents and children in mind.

One of the hazards of indoor pools is that humidity levels can be unbearable, as well as the likelihood of the building eventually being destroyed by rot and decay. But Shapland Swim Schools utilise a specific design and maintenance scheme which thwarts this problem.

“The frame gives me the ability to put a separate building over the pool, like a separate enclosure. The pool's totally enclosed and once you get inside you're protected from all the elements,” says Shapland. In Queensland's hot, humid summers, having this flexible state-of-the-art design allows the sides to be elevated, allowing air flow to stabilise temperature.

Shapland concedes that compared with some of the large companies that Hyne supply, Shapland Swim Schools is a “micro customer”. But this doesn't affect Hyne's exemplary service standards. “In terms of making delivery dates and accommodating us, you just couldn't ask for a better company to work with,” says Shapland.

As for Hyne's products, Shapland acknowledges their quality and their longevity. “The reason we chose Hyne laminated timber was for its durability in that environment. We're hoping to get – I don't know how many years out of these frames – a long time, with relatively low maintenance,” he says.

When they choose Shapland Swim Schools, parents know that the environment where their children are being taught some of life's most important lessons in is a comfortable and safe one.

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