



Simple sophistication ... Tom Davies of Chappelli Cycles, with the bicycle that won one of the top prizes at the Australian International Design Awards. Photo: Quentin Jones

A ride that 'brings a smile to your face'

Alexandra Smith

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

CHANGING gears is as simple as turning a radio dial. The sleek black frame is handmade, with leather grips and a leather seat while the handlebars boast a built-in lighting system. And it rides like a dream.

From a workshop in Bondi, the Chappelli NuVinci bicycle was designed by keen cyclists Pablo Chappelli and Tom Davies as part of a collaboration with Falbrook Technologies in the US, which makes specialised internal gear hubs.

Their goal was simple: to design a beautiful bike with a gear system that could cope with the hills of Sydney.

"We wanted to have a bike that not only had great technology but also a bike that was eye-catching,

THE BEST OF GOOD DESIGN

Category winners

- ▶ Consumer: Garject garlic crusher
- ▶ Architectural and interior: Cobi chair
- ▶ Automotive and transport: Range Rover Evoque

▶ Heavy machinery:

- ▶ Deepsea Challenger submarine
- ▶ Sport and leisure: Chappelli NuVinci bicycle
- ▶ Medical and scientific: Bung Plug stock sealing device

▶ Housing and building: Compu

- ▶ Pool C-series chlorinator
- ▶ Business and technology: MineLab F3 Compact Metal Detector
- ▶ Service design: Family by Family

really beautiful and was a real piece of art," Mr Davies said. Their bike beat a finless surfboard, an electric bike, a swim-resistance device and a super-lightweight athletic shoe to win the top prize in the sport and leisure category of the Australian International Design Awards.

Announced last night in Sydney, Australia's oldest and most respected design awards had more than 200 Australian

and internationally designed products judged for their innovation, form, function, quality, safety and sustainability.

The top award went to the US filmmaker James Cameron's Deepsea Challenger submarine, which was designed, engineered and manufactured in Sydney. Cameron was the first human to plunge solo to the deepest point of the ocean. Brandon Glen, the managing

director of Good Design Australia, which runs the awards, said he felt the design of the Deepsea Challenger was as significant as putting a man on the moon.

"I have been running these awards for 16 years and we have had trains being entered, we have had aeroplanes, we have had the most incredible medical devices and this just takes the cake," Mr Glen said. "I think this is just a billboard

for what Australian design and ingenuity is all about. I am particularly proud that the awards are truly international and this project was designed, developed and manufactured here in Australia."

Mr Glen said the Chappelli bike was also a "shining example" of outstanding design that "brings a smile to your face". "Where I think the bike really stood out was in its pure simplicity and sophistication," he said. "I've heard people describe the great design as something really simple and really easy to understand, and this bike is just absolutely exquisite in its design. You just get on this bike and you just ride."



Airtlink

Scan the bike to watch Tom Davies talk about his winning design.