

Coty awards presented at Evening of Excellence dinner

Three Ohio Valley NARI members win a total of ten awards

Three Ohio Valley NARI member companies won a total of ten local awards in the 2009 Local Contractor of the Year (CotY) Award competition.

Neal's Design and Remodel headed the list of CotY recipients with a total of seven winning projects. The firm received awards in the Residential Interior Over \$100,000, Residential Exterior Over \$100,000, Residential Addition \$100,000 to \$250,000, Entire House \$250,000 to \$500,000, Residential Kitchen Over \$100,000, Residential Bath \$30,000 to \$60,000, and Residential Bath Over \$60,000 categories.



Opening up a small, walled-off kitchen, adding cabinetry and food preparation area, but keeping within the existing building envelope was a challenge for Neal's Design & Remodel. This was accomplished by, among other things, relocating the sink and sink window to a corner, placing a new refrigerator in a new location, and removing kitchen walls. The project won CotY recognition in the Residential Kitchen Over \$100,000 category.



A projection television system was already present when Kessler Construction Services was called to change a billiard room into a comfortable home theater and entertaining area. A custom-built wood enclosure for the audio components and the serving nook visible on the right side of the photo prevent the 84-inch screen from dominating the visual impact of the room.

Kessler Construction Services received the CotY awards in the Home Theater and Media Room Under \$150,000 and Residential Kitchen \$30,000 to \$60,000 categories.

Don Patten Remodeling received honorable mention recognition in the Residential Kitchen \$30,000 to \$60,000 category.

Judges for the awards were Lisa Crouch, Allied, ASID, a designer with IDesign, Dayton; Michael J. Battaglia, AIA, architect and principal of Michael J. Battaglia Residential Design, in Dayton, and Bob Malchow, CR, CKBR, Malchow Building & Remodeling, West Carrollton, a member of Miami Valley NARI.

The local award winners received their plaques at the Evening of Excellence dinner in
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Renée Rewiski, national president of NARI, (far right), swore in the 2009 officers and directors of Ohio Valley NARI after their formal election at the Evening of Excellence. The 2009 OVNARI board consists of, left to right, Jeff McCoy, John Ashton, CR; Andrew Glasgow, Steve McCord, CR; Larry Kessler, CKBR; Matt Bliemeister, Scott Beard, and April Cowan, CKBR.

Eight elected as officers and directors of Ohio Valley NARI for 2009

Members of Ohio Valley NARI elected April Cowan, CKBR, The Front Gate, as president of the chapter for 2009 during a brief business meeting at the Evening of Excellence. She succeeds Brett Howard, Pella Windows & Doors, who moves to the position of chairman of the board.

Other officers and directors for the year are Scott Beard, Building Value, vice president; Larry Kessler, CKBR, Kessler Construction Services, treasurer; and directors John Ashton, CR, Baths Plus; Matt Bliemeister, Cincinnati

Floor & Window Coverings; Andrew Glasgow, H. Glasgow Construction Co.; Steve McCord, CR, Steve McCord Carpentry; and Jeff McCoy, Exteriors Unlimited.

National NARI President Renée Rewiski, swore in the new board members immediately after their election.

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The NARI Renovator is produced by Ohio Valley NARI as a service and benefit to its members. The organization's office is located at 136 South Keowee Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402; (800) 498-NARI or fax (937) 222-5794.

Ohio Valley NARI Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board: Brett Howard, Pella Windows & Doors
President: April Cowan, CKBR, The Front Gate
Vice President: Scott Beard, Building Value
Treasurer: Larry Kessler, CKBR, Kessler Construction Services
Directors: John Ashton, CR, Baths Plus; Matt Bliemeister, Cincinnati Floor & Window Coverings; Andrew Glasgow, H. Glasgow Construction Co.; Steve McCord, CR, Steve McCord Carpentry; Jeff McCoy, Exteriors Unlimited

Such a deal!

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Don Patten Remodeling was tasked with updating a kitchen that was already showing wear after 13 years and was never a user-friendly area for food preparation and serving. Cabinets, countertops, and the sink were replaced with cherry wood cabinets, quartz countertops, and an undermount sink. A large, intrusive pantry cabinet was removed to improve aesthetics and eliminate a barrier between the kitchen and the breakfast bay. The project earned Honorable Mention recognition in the Residential Kitchen \$30,000 to \$60,000 category.



Neal's Design & Remodel reconfigured the boxed-in spaces of a 1970s era bath to create a spacious, inviting master bath with a walk-in closet and numerous other design and convenience features. The project won the CotY Award in the Residential Bath \$30,000 to \$60,000 category.



The home owners envisioned an addition with a sunroom ambiance, but which would include an architecturally-interesting ceiling and a stone fireplace for all-year living. To make a new, higher ceiling possible the 420 square foot sunroom addition was constructed with a step-down from the existing structure. The project brought a Contractor of the Year Award in the Residential Addition \$100,000 to \$250,000 category to Neal's Design & Remodel.

CotY Awards *(Continued from page 1)*

December. Among the special guests at the dinner was Renée Rewiski, national president of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

In addition to the Contractor of the Year Awards the event featured presentation of service awards to the elected and volunteer leaders who served the chapter in various positions during 2008. Receiving service awards were Larry Kessler, CKBR, 2008 chairman of the board and treasurer; Brett Howard, 2008 president; Greg Pitstick, 2008 vice president; and 2008 directors April Cowan, CKBR; Scott Beard; Ed Kramer, CR, CKBR; and Matt Bliemeister.

Jeff McCoy and Steve Zimmer, CR, were recognized for organizing the 2008 Ohio Valley NARI golf outing.



Kessler Construction Services rebuilt a crowded, inefficient 30-year-old kitchen in a 70-year-old house to create a more open environment without the barriers that impeded traffic between the food prep and dining areas. The project won the Contractor of the Year Award in the Residential Kitchen \$30,000 to \$60,000 category.



Neal's Design & Remodel planned this CotY-winning project in the Residential Interior \$100,000 and Over category with attention to the home owners' fondness for contemporary design. The project combined chopped-up separate dining, kitchen, pantry, and laundry rooms into an open floor plan with easy-to-clean features.

CotY winners continued



You have to see both the inside and outside to appreciate what Neal's Design & Remodel accomplished in this Entire House \$250,000 to \$500,000 remodel of a relatively modest home. The project involved replacing a



fireplace, building a new family room, converting the former family room into a dining room, and numerous other changes to the original structure.



The clients of Neal's Design & Remodel wanted an outdoor room for relaxation and entertaining. The project, which won the CotY Award in the Residential Exterior Over \$100,000 category, included a large covered living area, a TV area to accommodate 50, a kitchen and beverage center, and a design that blended with the existing home.



This bath remodel project by Neal's Design & Remodel created a spa-like ambiance with a whirlpool tub, a separate walk-in shower, lots of storage, open space for ease of movement, and an enclosed toilet area. The new bath won CotY honors in the Residential Bath Over \$60,000 category.



Judges met in the NARI conference room on November 7 to assess entries in the Miami Valley NARI and Ohio Valley NARI 2009 Contractor of the Year awards programs. CotY judges were, left to right, Michael Battaglia, AIA; Bob Malchow, CR, CKBR, MVNARI Awards Chair and judge of the Ohio Valley NARI entries; Steve Zimmer, CR, an Ohio Valley NARI member and judge of MVNARI entries, and Lisa Crouch, Allied ASID..

The mission of Ohio Valley NARI is:

- ✓ To establish and maintain the association's firm commitment to developing and sustaining programs that expand and unite the remodeling industry as well as to ensure the industry's growth and security.
- ✓ To encourage ethical conduct, sound business practices, and professionalism in the remodeling industry.
- ✓ To present NARI as the recognized authority in the remodeling industry.

These missions are carried out by:

- ✓ Promoting the common business interests of those engaged in the industry.
- ✓ Sponsoring educational programs and activities for members.
- ✓ Enlightening consumers to the needs and advantages of home remodeling and maintenance, thereby improving the nation's housing inventory.
- ✓ Recommending legislative and regulatory action that safeguards and preserves the remodeling industry, and stimulates the marketplace.

Goals of chapter to accomplish mission:

- ✓ To provide education to enhance professional and personal competencies.
- ✓ To create and encourage networking.
- ✓ To develop and promote the profession.
- ✓ To serve as a resource center.
- ✓ To provide quality publications to members.
- ✓ To improve membership and membership participation.
- ✓ To improve consumer awareness.
- ✓ To remain proactive on current and pending legislation.



Ohio Valley NARI

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NARI launches information resources for contractors and consumers

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry has launched a new Web site, www.greenremodeling.org, as a resource for consumers and contractors seeking information about green and sustainable products and practices for the remodeling segment of the light construction industry.

Amassing all of the green remodeling knowledge we've collected over the past several years and making it available to everyone online was an enormous endeavor," said NARI President Renée Rewiski.

The new web site is a great resource for both the homeowner and the industry professional. "NARI's new Web site provides eco-minded homeowners with a quick resource to find Green Certified Professionals, and it offers our members a place to learn, gather information and get connected to others in the remodeling industry," said Don Van Cura, Sr, CR, CKBR, GCP, CLC, NARI National Education Chair.

"Professional remodelers and homeowners have requested access to detailed, easy-to-find advice about green remodeling," said Gwen Biasi, director of marketing and communications for NARI. "Easy to access public information on green remodeling is essential.

Homeowners need help and support to make informed choices about environmentally friendly remodeling," she continued.

"Green educated homeowners can help to drive up standards in the industry by asking the right questions. I am sure the new site will be widely used and will make a significant contribution to raising awareness among both the homeowner and industry professionals," Darius Baker, CR, CKBR, of D & J Kitchens & Baths, Inc., and the chair of NARI's marketing committee, said.

In another initiative to provide information to home owners and contractors NARI has established NARI Radio, a series of podcasts that can be downloaded from the NARI web site www.nari.org There is a prominent link to NARI Radio on the home page.

Each episode will range from 10 to 12 minutes in length and are hosted by Ron Cowgill, CR, CKBR, GCP and Mike Holmes, CR and John Gordon, three seasoned industry experts. Each episode consists of the hosts interviewing an expert in the topic for that episode. Programs currently available include "Forming Relationships With Your Subs." "How Fit is Your Business?" "Selling Green," and "Principles of Universal Design."