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NARI OF MINNESOTA RECOGNIZES EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE REMODELING PROJECTS IN TWIN CITIES

Twin Cities Remodeling Firms Claim Honors at Annual “Contractor of the Year” Event

MINNEAPOLIS (November 8, 2007) The Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) yesterday honored 22 Twin Cities remodeling firms with the prestigious 2007 Contractor of the Year (COTY) awards. Awards were given in 20 categories, including “sustainable remodeling,” “best newcomer” and “best of show.” Additionally, most categories had an honorable mention winner. The awards were presented Nov. 7 at the 11th annual Contractor of the Year awards ceremony.

“The amount of entries and the creativity in the projects that were honored this year illustrate that the Twin Cities boasts amazing talent in the remodeling industry,” said Bjorn Freudenthal, president of NARI of Minnesota and general manager of College City Remodeling, Inc.

“Green” remodeling continues to draw interest from consumers and DiGiacomo Homes & Renovation received the 2007 COTY for “Sustainable Remodeling” for its renovation of a residential garage and backyard space, which utilized FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified lumber, recycled rubber mulch in the play area and landscaping that flows directly into a water garden, rain barrel and overflow dry well. This entry also received a COTY in the category of “Residential Exterior.”

Best Newcomer

Northrup Remodeling Inc. received the “Best Newcomer” COTY Award for an entire home transformation of a 1940s ranch-style two-bedroom, two-bath rambler into a craftsman inspired two-story, five-bedroom, five-bath home. This entry also received a COTY in the category of “Entire House Over \$500,000.”

Best of Show

Braden Construction Inc. received the “Best of Show” COTY Award for the renovation of a commercial dentist office that included an addition to the 1970s building to house client space and movement of walls to allow better staff flow. The transformation included a new reception area and an expansive waiting room as well as new bright color finishes. This entry also received a COTY in the category of “Commercial Interior, Exterior or Specialty.”

Residential Kitchen \$60,000 and Under

- Otogawa-Anschel Design-Build, Minneapolis, for a kitchen remodel that enabled the homeowners to work side-by-side as well as the addition of a half-bath created by rearranging access and repurposing space.
- Honorable Mention - Clark Smith Construction Inc., Edina

Residential Kitchen \$60,001 - \$75,000

- Otogawa-Anschel Design-Build, Minneapolis, for using the existing kitchen footprint to create a more functional workspace, pantry, baking station and eat-in area.
- Honorable Mention - Knight Construction Design, Inc., Chanhassen

Residential Kitchen \$75,001 - \$120,000

- CNS Construction, Mendota Heights, for the transformation of a small, narrow space into a casually elegant, family-friendly kitchen that features a new island, custom cabinetry, state-of-the-art appliances, more natural light and an integration of the family room and kitchen to make them more suitable for entertaining.
- Honorable Mention – Streeter & Associates, Wayzata

Residential Kitchen over \$120,000

- Streeter & Associates, Wayzata, for the transformation of a kitchen from a “cookie cutter” design to a customized space that includes separate zones for cooking, prep, and clean-up; custom cabinetry and millwork; rich, colorful materials and finishes; and maximum storage.
- Honorable Mention – Purcell, Inc., White Bear Lake

Residential Bath \$30,001 - \$60,000

- Otogawa-Anschel Design-Build, Minneapolis, for the renovation of a poorly laid out bathroom into a spa-like retreat.
- Honorable Mention – Authentic Construction, St. Paul

Residential Bath over \$60,000

- Braden Construction, Holton, Wisc. for their renovation of a master bathroom in an 1890s Victorian home in Stillwater.
- Honorable Mention – Holtan Kitchens & Remodeling, Minneapolis

Residential Interior \$150,000 and under

- DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen, St. Louis Park, for the contemporary renovation of a 42nd floor St. Paul condominium that features window walls on two sides and a chef's kitchen open to the living and dining spaces.
- Honorable Mention – w.b. builders, Edina

Residential Interior over \$150,000

- Irmiter Remodeling & Design in Richfield for their transformation of an existing basement into a space that would be divided into rooms with different functions to fit the homeowners daily needs as well as for entertaining family and friends.
- Honorable Mention – Vujovich Design Build, Minneapolis

Residential Exterior

- DiGiacomo Homes & Renovation, Minnetonka, for building a new 2.5 car garage with shop space and overhead storage as well as designing an inviting outdoor space for summer family meals and entertaining, and implementing an innovative drainage system. This entry also received a COTY for "Sustainable Remodeling."
- Honorable Mention – Streeter & Associates, Inc., Wayzata

Commercial Interior, Exterior or Specialty

- Braden Construction, Houlton, Wisc. for the renovation of a commercial dentist office that included an addition to the 1970s building to house client space and movement of walls to allow better staff flow. The transformation included a new reception area and an expansive waiting room as well as new bright color finishes. This entry also received a COTY for "Best of Show."
- Honorable Mention – Northrup Remodeling Inc., Minneapolis

Interior Specialty

- Plekkenpol Builders, Bloomington, for their transformation of an unfinished basement into a music and entertainment studio, which includes a karaoke stage, maple cabinetry that contains an under-counter refrigerator, and glass and beverage storage, and retractable doors that conceal the music equipment and lighting controls.
- Honorable Mention – TreHus Architects & Interior Designers, Minneapolis

Residential Addition \$200,000 and under

- Jones Design Build, Minneapolis, for their addition of a glass-roofed conservatory that brightened the kitchen and added dimension and access to the rear of the home, improving traffic patterns and providing views of the outdoor gardens and pond.
- Honorable Mention – Braden Construction, Holton, Wisc.

Residential Addition Over \$200,000

- DiGiacomo Homes & Renovation in Minnetonka for its budget-friendly 1,146 square foot, two-story addition with Arts & Crafts detailing.
- Honorable Mention – Micheal Reel Builders and Remodelers, Minneapolis

Entire House Under \$500,000

- CASE of Anoka for their remodel of the main level of a rambler style home to create connection and flow while using the existing footprint.
- Honorable Mention – Schreder Remodeling Inc., St. Michael

Entire House Over \$500,000

- Northrup Remodeling Inc., Minneapolis, for their transformation of a 1940s ranch-style two-bedroom, two-bath rambler into a craftsman inspired two-story, five-bedroom, five-bath home. This entry also received a COTY for “Best Newcomer.”
- Honorable Mention – NOR-SON, Inc. in Baxter.

Residential Historical Renovation/ Restoration

- Authentic Construction, St. Paul, for the exterior renovation, kitchen expansion and addition of a front portico on a 1912 Arts and Crafts home, which meets all of the needs of today’s lifestyle and technology but with the appearance that it was always a part of the house.

Sustainable

- DiGiacomo Homes & Renovation, Minnetonka, for its renovation of a residential garage and backyard space, which utilized FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified lumber, recycled rubber mulch in the play area and landscaping that flows directly into a water garden, rain barrel and overflow dry well.
- Honorable Mention - Otogawa-Anschel Design-Build, LLC, of Minneapolis

To be considered for a COTY Award, a company must be a NARI member in good standing. NARI members represent an elite group from the approximately 800,000 companies and individuals in the U.S. identifying themselves as remodelers.

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About NARI of Minnesota

NARI of Minnesota is a Chapter of The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI), the only trade association dedicated solely to the remodeling industry. With more than 7,000 member companies nationwide, the Association is *“The Voice of the Remodeling Industry”™*. For membership and chapter information, or for more on the COTY Awards, visit the NARI MN website at www.narimn.org or contact the headquarters at 612-332-NARI.

It is estimated that Americans will spend nearly \$233 billion on remodeling in 2007. More than a million homes per year undergo major renovation or remodeling.

NARI is a professional association whose members voluntarily subscribe to a strict code of ethics. Consumers may wish to search www.narimn.org to find a qualified professional who is a member of NARI or contact the headquarters at 612-332-NARI for a copy of the consumer directory, *“Remodeling Today.”*

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