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Real Estate

Remodeling rewards

11 local projects
honored with
excellence awards

DEBORAH DONOVAN

Daily Herald Homes Writer

Remodeling jobs that turn out well are worth celebrating, since most homeowners face major renovation work with trepidation.

Eleven local projects were honored by the Chicago chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry with its first Remodeling Excellence Awards.

Categories ranged from bathrooms, kitchens and porches to additions and the remodeling of entire houses and commercial spaces.

Only 16 projects were entered in this first competition. Based in Des Plaines, the chapter with 200 members maintains a code of ethics and offers classes and certifications to its members.

PRO/CRAFT Painting & Contracting of Libertyville won three awards. Two of the honors are for work on a Gurnee house involving a porch and a bath in a category of \$30,000 or more. The company also won for a commercial project costing \$50,000 or less.

The two-story porch on the rear of the home on the Heather Ridge Golf Course features a screened-in room with a concrete floor stamped in a



PHOTO COURTESY OF NARI OF GREAT CHICAGO/LAND
Oak Tree Construction Services of Schaumburg won a remodeling award with this Inverness kitchen.

cobblestone pattern and acid stained in a custom color of greens and reds.

On top of the porch is a deck made of Trex, a composite of wood and plastic.

The master bathroom in the house has a new tub, a larger

shower and porcelain tiles. Perhaps the most striking feature is a cabinet tower that sits on the double vanity counter.

"We made the bathroom work better and more elegant," said Liz Ropele, office manager for PRO/CRAFT. "By moving

the whirlpool tub, we made the room appear a lot larger than before."

The commercial job involved turning a bank into space for a beauty parlor and spa called A C Hair Design of Libertyville.

Aventura Builders Inc. of Glendale Heights more than doubled the size of a 60-year-old house in Wheaton and won in the category for remodeling an entire house.

The addition went around the existing house, which was a 1½-story home.

It now has four bedrooms and two baths on the second floor.

The first floor has both an addition and remodeled area featuring a new kitchen, living spaces and an office. The exterior is cedar siding.

"They wanted to save certain original elements in the house," said Chris Donatelli, a principal with the company.

These included hardwood floors and recently remodeled space on the second floor.

"We framed the roof around the existing bathroom and bedroom," Donatelli said.

Oak Tree Construction Services Inc. of Schaumburg was honored for work in an Inverness house. The awards were for a kitchen under \$60,000 and a bathroom under \$30,000.

The new kitchen, which was expanded into the space where the old dining room was, has granite countertops, cherry cabinets and stainless steel appliances, said Mike Dew,

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who owns the company with his wife, Donna.

The bathroom is a hall bath with tall maple cabinets and solid surface countertops.

The company also built an addition on the home.

In the category of residential room addition over \$150,000, Hanzel Construction Inc. of Carol Stream added an art gallery on a Glen Ellyn home where it had built an addition 15 years ago.

"We built a two-story addition on the east 15 years ago," said Ross Hanzel, who works with his father. "This time we added a second floor and rehabbed the main floor on the west."

"The whole area is open to the cathedral ceiling," he said. "It has 33 windows and six skylights and new wood floors. There's a free-standing fireplace in the corner and pocket doors from the other room."

D & R Services Unlimited Inc. of Glenview won for a bathroom under \$15,000.

Digging out the basement floor to create a walk-in shower under a 7½-foot ceiling made the bathroom in a Wilmette home stand out.

Forde Windows and Remodeling of Northbrook transformed a Highland Park kitchen and won in the above \$60,000 category.

The custom cabinets have an ebony stain, and the appliances and doors to the upper cabinets are stainless steel. Sandblasted glass matches the stainless steel. The countertops are black granite.

LaPelusa Home Improvement Inc. of Niles won in the deck category under \$30,000 for a prairie-style deck in Park Ridge.