

News Release



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St. Louis Park design-build firms capture 'Contractor of the Year' Awards

Two St. Louis Park-based design, build and remodel firms have been named "Contractor of the Year" (COTY) by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry of Minnesota (NARI). The awards were presented Nov. 8 at the ninth annual Contractor of the Year Awards ceremony. The award-winning firms are Orfield Design and Construction, Inc., and DreamMaker Bath and Kitchen.

Orfield Design and Construction won its COTY in the category of "residential kitchen over \$100,000." The project consisted of bringing French Country charm, as well as additional space and functionality, to the kitchen of an Edina home. The kitchen, which had been repeatedly remodeled through the years, was gutted and a bay was added to give ample room for a sit-down Cambria countertop center island to accommodate the needs of a large family. In addition, the room was fitted with a pantry, broom closet, buffet and china cabinet, desk area, gas fireplace, food preparation area, and gas cooking niche, oven and hood.

"This was a very traditional, older, formal home. The homeowners enjoy the beautiful and functional new kitchen space for the family and for the great deal of guest entertaining they do," said Neah Brewington, Business Development Manager and Laura Orfield, Vice President and Partner of Orfield Design and Construction, which is located at 3216 Dakota Ave. S. in St. Louis Park. "It's very gratifying to receive this award."

A COTY Award was also presented to DreamMaker Bath and Kitchen in the category of "residential bath \$30,001 - \$60,000." This remodeling project was completed in a third-story Minneapolis condo. The homeowner came to DreamMaker Bath and Kitchen with a photo of a contemporary imported Italian dresser, which she had on order, as well as the swatch of an unusual paint color she liked. From these two items, the concept for the homeowner's new master bath evolved. The result was a visually opened and expanded room with simple lines and warm colors and textures, including the desired paint color. Special care was taken to select materials that could be brought up a small staircase to the condo, as well as to comply with condo association regulations.

"Together with the homeowner, we added whimsical touches to the room and used interesting fossils in the shellstone tiles," said Lynn Monson, President of DreamMaker Bath and Kitchen, which is located at 6801 Wayzata Blvd. in St. Louis Park. "We accomplished the homeowner's vision for this space. Winning the COTY award for the work is a special bonus."

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Contractors from central Minnesota vie for COTY awards on an annual basis. All projects submitted for judging were an improvement or an addition to an existing structure. An impartial panel of nine judges who are experts within the industry and associated fields selected winners based on each entrant's "before and after" photography and project description. Judging was based on problem solving, functionality, aesthetics, craftsmanship, innovation, degree of difficulty and entry presentation.

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.

To learn more about Orfield Design and Construction, Inc. visit www.orfelddesign.com or call 952-920-6543. To learn more about DreamMaker Bath and Kitchen, visit www.dreammaker-remodel.com or call 952-417-9999.

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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*"TM. 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.

The remodeling market, a \$230 billion industry in the U.S. in 2003, is expected to continue to experience significant growth. It is estimated that 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.*"