

YOUR BUSINESS

Permits as a lead source

YOUR CLIENTS

Customer dispute resolution

YOUR TEAM

Is it time to hire?

YOUR PROJECTS

In-house design solution

remodeling

YOUR TOOLBOX FOR SUCCESS

Design Awards

The best remodeling projects of the year





remodeling design awards

The Judges

AMY GARDNER
Gardner Mohr Architects,
Chevy Chase, Md.

TOM GLASS
Glass Construction,
Washington, D.C.

JUDY MOZEN
Handcrafted Homes,
Roswell, Ga.

PAGE REPP
Repp Design + Construction,
Tucson, Ariz.

JOHN RUSK
Rusk Renovations,
New York, N.Y.

What makes a winning project? Design that hits high marks in craftsmanship, aesthetics, sustainability, and livability.

While many projects in this year's crop of 215 entries struck the right notes, 20 stood out as clear winners. These designs, according to our judges, had "internal integrity and stayed true to the elements of [a particular] style."

In discussing the entries featuring traditional designs, the judges commented that too many had "a little of this and a little of that, and they put it all together and it's too much," failing to create "a cohesive design that flows ... and makes sense."

As in years' past, the judges looked not only at the projects but at their presentation. Entry binders that told a coherent story through "before" photos and professionally taken "after" photos, easy-to-understand site plans, and a clearly stated problem/solution rose to the top.

The Awards

Awards entries are organized into 11 categories, with an additional 34 subcategories based on price.

Judges are not required to award a winner in each category, and they have leeway in determining which projects show the highest degree of design expertise and craftsmanship.

In the end, our judges selected 20 projects for distinction: one Best of the Year, five Grand Awards, and 14 Merit Awards. This year, the new category of Residential Exterior had strong competition with 20 entries. Other hotly contended categories include whole-house (47), kitchen (37), and bathroom remodeling (27).



Guests Welcome
 Since the original façade was a crawlspace, there were no windows or doors. Two translucent windows in the new entry maintain privacy for both guests and the homeowners.

Design/Build \$100,000 - \$250,000

Open Sesame

PRIORITIES

- Create a flexible guest suite from the crawlspace under a garage
- Retain privacy for both the homeowners and visitors
- Extend the modern style of the existing house to this new space

SOLUTIONS

To create the same open feeling as the main house, designer and contractor Stephen Shoup removed the center post in the crawlspace and flush-framed the central beam to support the garage above. The new floor is even with the existing deck, which creates a 96-inch ceiling height in the guest suite.

A floor-to-ceiling picture window floods the space with natural light, but it faces the wooded area, which maintains privacy. To allow light to flow into the shower, Shoup used translucent laminated glass in the fixed window — adjacent to the entry door — that makes up the outside wall of the shower.

A compact kitchenette includes a small sink, cooktop, and an undercounter refrigerator. A sliding door hides the section when the kitchen is not in use. Another hidden element is the fold-down bed, which is on the same wall as the kitchenette. Matching wall-hung cabinets and floating shelves provide storage in the living room.

ARCHITECT
 Andrew Fischer,
 Fischer Architecture
**DESIGN/BUILD GEN.
 CONTRACTOR AND
 EXECUTION OF
 DESIGN**
 Building Lab

JUDGES' COMMENTS

The judges said the designer made some “shrewd” decisions that maximized the limited crawlspace and made it look “effortless.” “It’s a tiny jewel box of craftsmanship that has all the essentials of living, sleeping, eating, and bathing contained in less than 500 square feet,” said one judge.